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LD0103133089 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The 28 February Israeli raid on areas near Beirut killed two DFLP members and wounded 27 civilians, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced. Those injured included 21 children and a teacher from the local school in 'Aynab. A Progressive Socialist Party statement carried by the radio described the raid as a "barbaric act" which confirms that "organized Zionist terrorism is the real terrorism."

Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio stated that the school was not hit in the raid and is located some 250 meters away from the targets that were bombarded. The sources acknowledged, however, that some people could have been wounded by shattered windows.

Israel

Local Elections—The Likud expanded its power basis in the local elections, gaining control of Ashdod and several other cities, Jerusalem radio reported. Teddy Kollek remains mayor of Jerusalem but his "One Jerusalem Party" lost its overall majority in the city council. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens described the results as a "landslide" for the Likud.

Kidnapped Soldier—In remarks reported by Jerusalem radio, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel will not release jailed terrorists to secure the release of missing soldier Avi Sasportas, and he added that this would be "a mistake Israel cannot repeat." An anonymous caller subsequently told AFP that a videocassette of the kidnapped soldier has been "delivered to the UN in Israel." However, officials at the UN headquarters in Jerusalem said they had not received any such cassette, the agency noted.

Territories—Three Arabs were wounded by IDF gunfire and two Israeli women were wounded when stones were thrown at their car, Jerusalem television reported.

PLO and the United States

Recent U.S. criticism of Palestinian attempts to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon "smacks of hypocrisy," PLO information official Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh stated in remarks reported by AFP.

In Israel, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu welcomed the U.S. criticism of the PLO as a sign that the United States is "sobering up" and is discovering that the PLO has not really disconnected itself from terrorist activity, Jerusalem radio reported.

Soviet-Iranian Talks on Rushdie Affair

The dispute over Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" has caused "alarm" in the Soviet leadership and it was therefore "natural" that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze raised this issue during his talks with Iranian leaders, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov stated at a press briefing reported by TASS. The Soviet side gained the impression that Iran wants to resolve the issue and believes the Soviet Union can play a "positive role" in this, Gerasimov added. He warned that if a "reasonable solution" is not found, there could be "unpredictable" consequences.

Sudan

The country must be spared from the "whirlpool" of military coup followed by revolution, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared in a speech to parliament broadcast by Khartoum National Unity radio. Al-Mahdi stated in his response to the Army's memorandum that politicans and the military "should not be drawn into a maelstrom of mutual recrimination" and called for condemnation of "plotting," a commitment to "constitutional legitimacy" and discipline, the widest possible base for government, and defense of the homeland as a priority.

The Armed Forces General Command issued a statement 28 February stressing its "adherence to the position outlined in the memorandum" and rejecting suggestions of "shortcomings or lack of military discipline," MENA reported. The statement also affirmed the Army's support for democracy "in accordance with the 1985 Constitution."

Earlier, Al-Mahdi met with opposition party representatives to discuss the memorandum, SUNA reported. The National Islamic Front issued a statement supporting the idea of a national government, SUNA added, while according to AFP both the Democratic Unionists and the communists criticized Al-Mahdi's reaction to the Army's demands. The trade unions supported the Army's view and criticized the "deteriorating situation" in the country, Omdurman radio reported.

In a related development, the Foreign Ministry denied reports Sudan has asked Egypt for military aid, MENA noted. State Council member Ali Hasan Taj al-Din disclosed that Libya has "agreed to supply Sudan with weapons" following his talks with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, SUNA reported.

Tunisia

AL-HURRIYAH newspaper warned of the dangers of remaining silent over recent violence by "extremists" at Sousse University, Tunis radio reported. The paper declared it is "everyone's duty to face up to terrorism," whose aim may be to "undermine" the new atmosphere in the country.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Text' of Soviet Middle East 'Peace Plan'

PM2802171189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 89 pp1-2

[Khalil Matar report: "Text of Soviet Plan for Peace Process Reactivation"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will receive a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev when he receives Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that the new Soviet initiative carried by Shevardnadze on his tour of the Middle East consists of four points which the Soviet Union hopes will effectively reactivate the peace process and take the crisis out of the current state of political stagnation.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources, the Soviet initiative consists of the following points:

1. Forming a five-member preparatory committee from the Arab states and sides concerned with the Middle East problem, namely Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO, to come up with a unified, harmonious, or at least coordinated, Arab stance so that there will be no conflicting Arab positions at an international conference—otherwise the conference will be a failure.

2. Reviving Gorbachev's proposal, made years ago, to form an international committee from the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, to prepare an international conference, and to coordinate with the UN secretary general to specify the nature, form, and agenda of the conference.

3. Holding a UN Security Council session at the foreign ministers level.

4. Arranging a direct meeting between Israeli and PLO officials within the framework of an international conference.

Shaykh Sa'd Press Statements on Regional Issues

LD2802115489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, Feb 28 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah was quoted here Tuesday as saying that Kuwait supports efforts being exerted to convene the regular Arab summit in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

In press statements, carried here today by two Jordanian newspapers AL-RA'Y and JORDAN TIMES, Shaykh Sa'd said that it was high time to convene the summit.

Speaking on home affairs, Shaykh Sa'd said Kuwait had overcome all its difficulties, saying security and stability were well maintained.

Shaykh Sa'd paid tribute to King Husayn for his efforts aimed at unifying Arab ranks and consolidating Arab solidarity. "Kuwait highly appreciates King Husayn's stands in support of Kuwait during hard times," Shaykh Sa'd said, adding that Jordan's security and stability are Kuwait's security and stability. He said Kuwait would open its doors for cooperation and consolidation of Jordanian economy by establishment of joint ventures.

Shaykh Sa'd voiced Kuwait's support to the newly established Arab gathering as the correct means to boost Arab solidarity.

Regarding Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent two-day visit to Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd said it was in the framework of Arab consultations.

"Kuwait is glad with that visit because it will deepen bilateral relations with sisterly Egypt and will open horizons of joint work between Kuwait and Egypt," he added. He said the two sides held intensive talks and that their viewpoints were identical, describing the visit as successful and fruitful.

Commenting on regional and international developments, Shaykh Sa'd noted that cessation of the Iraq-Iran war was the most important one, saying Kuwait had worked with sisterly Arab countries to bring an end to that war.

"Iraq has adhered to its stand calling for ending the war and expressed willingness to accept all peaceful initiatives and suggestions to put an end to destruction but Iran rejected and insisted on the continuation of war," Shaykh Sa'd said.

"Iran had tentatively accepted the ceasefire last July. It is well known that the U.N.-sponsored negotiations in Geneva had contributed to pushing forward peace efforts," he said.

Shaykh Sa'd said the eight-year long war has its complications "and it is natural that negotiations would take their course" indicating that efforts were currently concentrated on reaching a lasting settlement. He said decisive talks would be held in the first half of March under the U.N. supervision, adding that all indications affirm that an agreement would be reached soon to put an end to this tragic conflict.

Shaykh Sa'd said his recent visit to Iraq was "important and fruitful" and availed him the opportunity to have talks and exchange views with President Saddam Husayn and Deputy Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, 'Izzat Ibrahim, on various issues stressing that it was a chance to strengthen fraternal relations.

Asked on the Kuwaiti mediation to settle the Lebanese crisis, Shaykh Sa'd said "all that is done falls within the framework of Arab moves and collective responsibility to solve the Lebanese problem."

The Arab League last January set up a six-man committee under the chairmanship of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to try to find out a solution to war-torn Lebanon. In addition to Shaykh Sabah, the committee comprises foreign ministers of Jordan, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and the Arab League's chief Chedli Klibi.

The committee held a first round of talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and head of the military government Gen. Michel 'Awn separately in Tunis late last January. The second meeting to which the country's spiritual Muslim and Christian leaders were invited was held in Kuwait this month.

"We invited the spiritual leaders for a meeting in Kuwait. Talks were positive and fruitful and we believe that Kuwait talks would contribute to the success of negotiations between influential Lebanese politicians who are due to meet next month with the committee to forge an agreement," Shaykh Sa'd said. He pledged that Kuwait would do its utmost to bring an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

Speaking on the developments of the Palestinian question, Shaykh Sa'd said the intifadah [uprising] had necessitated finding a solution to the Middle East problem, saying some countries which tried to neglect this issue today find themselves concerned just as the others to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question.

Shayhk Sa'd was optimistic that the international community, particularly the superpowers, would shoulder their responsibilities and would exert efforts towards settling the Palestinian question, stressing the need to put an end to Israel's aggression, occupation, usurpation and the law of the jungle in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Abd Rabbuh Assails U.S. 'Hypocrisy'

NC2802154589 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, Feb 28 (AFP)—The recent U.S. criticism of Palestinian attempts to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon "smacks of hypocrisy," a senior PLO official said here Tuesday.

The U.S. position is "aimed at covering up the crimes committed every day by Israel in the occupied territories," said Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's information department.

"Palestinians have the right to exercise all forms of struggle against the occupation, and there is not a state of no-war between us and Israel," he said.

Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh was reacting to recent U.S. State Department warnings that cross-border raids into Israel could have a "negative effect" on the U.S.-PLO dialogue that opened in December.

Three fighters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the main groups under the PLO umbrella, were killed last Thursday in an failed bid to infiltrate northern Israel.

"Rather than create artificial storms over a clash between guerrillas and an occupation army, the United States would do better to act against the exactions of a regular army on the civilian population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh said, accusing Washington of "hypocrisy."

The occupied territories have been the scene of daily clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian demonstrators since the December 1987 outbreak of an Arab uprising.

Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO delegation in negotiations with the United States, said that Washington should urge Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon, in keeping with United Nations resolutions.

The PLO and the United States have only held one formal meeting in the Tunisian capital, where the organisation has its political headquarters, since Washington's decision of December 14 to embark on the dialogue.

The move came after PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat publicly recognized Israel's right to exist within secure borders and renounced terrorism.

Khalaf Attacks European Stands, U.S. Talks

JN2802131489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad. 28 Feb (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, the PLO's No. 2 man, has criticized the European states' stand toward the Palestinian question and accused them of rigidity and immorality.

In an interview published here today in the newspaper, AL-THAWRAH, Abu Iyad called on France to be faithful in its dealings to its principles and political morals. He said: French President Francois Mitterrand had promised to receive PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after the PLO recognizes [UN Security Council] Resolution No 242. The PLO has recognized it, and Mitterrand has not yet met with 'Arafat or made any move. He pointed out that neither the FRG nor Belgium have done anything on this.

The Palestinian official urged that this rigid European stand not be prolonged because, according to Abu Iyad, "this is the most appropriate situation for Israel." He also called on the British Government to move forward to a position that will give it a historic place in the Palestinian question, and said: The Balfour Declaration is one of the causes of our people's misery. He concluded by saying: The European stand is immoral and is not compatible with their claims about human rights and other issues.

Salah Khalaf described the fanatic Israeli statements rejecting peace as "cries of fear more than of rejection." He said: They have built their theory on the possibility of destroying the Palestinian ghost. But, this ghost is returning once again through the intifadah [uprising], through the PLO, and through resolutions based on the spirit of peace.

Abu Iyad ruled out the possibility that extremists in Israel will manage to carry out their threats. He said: They are cowards and cannot do anything outside the framework of the State of Israel and the Israeli army. However, their extremism will affect the extremism of others.

Khalaf said that he is not convinced that Palestinian peace calls will be heard in Israel in the near future. He said: Fascist societies will continue to reject this until the last moment, when a fait accompli is imposed on them.

Commenting on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu Iyad said that the mere decision to open dialogue has abolished Kissinger's 1974 adventure, which he tried to use to remove the PLO. He also said: We do not give the dialogue more importance than it deserves.

Khalaf described the U.S. veto of the resolution to denounce Israel for its inhumane practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as "a laughingstock veto." Abu Iyad mentioned that the U.S. State Department's report included scores more things than what the UN Security Council mentioned. The report refers to the savageness and barbarism of the Israeli troops, while the veto rejects the words "we regret."

Abu Iyad said: We are prepared to wait. However, the statements made by Baker and Bush will push the cause back 20 years. This, according to Khalaf, goes beyond Israeli blackmail, it is as if the dialogue was opened to strike at us through it.

Khalaf: USSR Mediating Between Syria, PLO

NC0103105989 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 1 (AFP)—Moscow is attempting to reconcile Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization after a six-year rift, according to Salah Khalaf, the top aide to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

"Moscow has launched a new mediation bid to normalize our ties with Damascus because it believes in the importance of Syria's role (in Middle East peace)," Mr. Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, told the daily AL-ITTIHAD published here Wednesday.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr. 'Arafat have been at odds over Syrian attempts to gain control of the Palestinian movement, including in 1983 when Palestinian dissidents backed by Damascus drove 'Arafat loyalists from Tripoli, Lebanon.

The two men met last April in Damascus for the first time in five years, but no perceptible improvement in relations followed.

Mr. Khalaf gave no details of the Soviet efforts, which were not officially mentioned during a regional visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze last week that included meetings with Syrian and PLO officials.

"Unfortunately Syrian authorities have not invited 'Arafat for a visit and he will not go there unless invited," Mr. Khalaf added.

Moscow Invitation to 'Arafat, Al-Asad Reported

PM2702105089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Hisham al-Diwan and Zaki Musa report: "Palestinian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Asad, 'Arafat Invited to Reconciliation Meeting in Moscow"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, London, Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received an official invitation from the Soviet leadership to visit Moscow. The invitation was conveyed to him by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during their Cairo meeting. Reliable Palestinian sources in Kuwait have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Shevardnadze conveyed a similar invitation to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit the Soviet capital and meet with 'Arafat under the auspices of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a comprehensive reconciliation and to begin to lay the foundations for a just settlement of the Middle East crisis.

The sources denied any possibility or knowledge of a Soviet invitation to any Israeli official to visit Moscow after the 'Arafat and Al-Asad visits to discuss the question of an international peace conference.

Meanwhile, at a press conference in Cairo, Yasir 'Arafat confirmed that the dialogue with the United States was continuing and that the Palestinian side was continuously keeping the United States informed of its views. [passage omitted]

He said that he received, via international channels, proposals from the Israeli leadership with a view to reaching a new agreement along the same lines as that achieved in

1981 regarding fedayeen operations across southern Lebanon. He added: I have passed these proposals to our leadership, and they are still under discussion.

'Arafat described his presence and the presence of Arens in Cairo as a kind of indirect negotiation. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed sources in Cairo that the Egyptian political leadership and Foreign Ministry officials told Arens during his recent visit to Egypt that they rejected the Israeli peace plan announced by Shamir and were not prepared to discuss the ideas included in that plan.

The sources said that during the talks Arens tried to persuade the Egyptian officials to mediate between Israel and Jordan to promote the possibility of an Israeli-Jordanian official or unofficial dialogue, but that Egypt turned down the request.

In London, Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to the PLO chairman, said the PLO would agree to the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state if demilitarization applied to both states on the Palestinian territory once under British mandate.

Asked if the PLO could offer anything to allay Israeli fears of a Palestinian state, Abu Sharif, who was anwering questions in London during a lecture he delivered at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, after his hour-long meeting with British Minister of State at the Foreign Office William Waldegrave, said that the Palestinian state to be established in the occupied Palestinian territory after the Israeli forces' withdrawal would be the side needing international guarantees of its security because Israel has nuclear warheads and an army stronger than the other armies in the region, as is universally acknowledged. That is why, he said, the PLO will insist that the five permanent members of the Security Council participate in providing such security guarantees to all the states of the region, especially the Palestinian state.

Salah Khalaf Discusses Contacts With Israelis

PM2802124489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 89 p 4

[Walid al-Ja'fari report: "Salah Khalaf Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Official Meetings With Israelis in Near Future and Any Talk of Charter Amendment Is Untrue"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—has denied the possibility of any official meetings between the PLO and Israel in the near future, but at the same time he stressed the importance of holding meetings with Israeli democratic forces and circles that recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Salah Khalaf, commenting on the reaction to his television address to the International Peace Center last Wednesday, said: "The International Peace Center in Jerusalem, which is an independent center with members including some Israeli peace activists, had organized a seminar as a miniature international peace conference to which figures from France, Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union were invited, in addition to some Palestinian internal figures and several Israeli groups."

Abu Iyad added: The Peace Center requested a PLO presence at that "mini" conference, even if in the form of a videotape and the voice of a PLO leader. Hence my vocal participation, which has elicited various interpretations.

He continued: In that videotape I submitted the following ideas:

1. We Palestinians now have a peace strategy, but Israel's intransigence and rejection of any political settlement with the PLO obstruct peace efforts.

2. We in the PLO believe that an international peace conference must be held and that no peace is possible without such a conference.

3. We support any meetings with certain Israelis to pave the way to a successful international conference.

Abu Iyad added: The problem is Israel, not us. We know what we want and are sure of what we propose, but the other side evades and fears the peace process. To hinder meetings with the Israeli democratic forces Israel has introduced its so-called "terrorism law" under which any Israeli who meets with the PLO could be prosecuted.

The Fatah Central Committee member denied that in the tape he called for amendment of the charter. He said: "What I said was: Let us put aside your fear of our charter and our fear of your charters, and let us discuss them at the negotiating table. Bring your fears about security arrangements to the negotiating table." We cannot discuss these matters in the press and the media.

On the criticism leveled at him by certain Palestinian circles, Abu Iyad said: Some Palestinian circles lead an empty life, are out of touch with what is happening in the world, and are content with just raising slogans, but we in the PLO proceed according to a clear strategy in the interest of our people and nation and within the framework of the PNC resolutions. We must offer our people and our heroic intifadah [uprising] solutions that would help them to victory.

On the question of Palestinian passport, Abu Iyad said: This is premature because a passport requires a state that would receive its holder, and this can only be achieved through Arab consensus when the Palestinian state

becomes an actual reality, God willing. The happiest moment for the Palestinian people will be when they are able to hold a passport bearing the name of Palestine.

Sa'id Muragha Views DFLP Support for 'Arafat

NC2802182789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Provisional Command of Fatah-The Uprising, has maintained that the DFLP's recent military operation reflects an internal crisis and is not the result of differences with Yasir 'Arafat.

In a long radio and press interview, which will be broadcast and published the day after tomorrow, Wednesday [as heard], Abu Musa said that the assistant secretary general of the DFLP, who heads the delegation conducting the dialogue with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, takes the same line as 'Arafat.

Col Abu Musa affirmed that ambiguity in resolving the matter of how to respond to the deviationist line in the Palestinian arena has resulted in the PNSF remaining an ineffective and weak opposition. This situation caused some organizations to leave the PNSF and join the 'Arafat council in 1986, because they had not reached a final decision on their position toward the deviationist line. Eventually, the PFLP, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front chose to go along with 'Arafat.

Col Abu Musa stressed the need to continue consultations with the other Palestinian groups to form a Palestinian national grouping to counter the grouping that represents the deviationist line. He expressed the wish that the Islamic forces struggling against the occupation inside the occupied territories, particularly Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, would join this national grouping.

Abu Musa revealed that contacts have been held with the two movements. He noted, however, that Hamas did not wish to join an anti-'Arafat front, whereas the Islamic Jihad organization agrees in all its views with the anti-'Arafat Palestinian national current that adheres to the policy of armed struggle. Col Abu Musa said that when the Jihad organization completes its organizational and internal and external arrangements it will be ready to join the front as a national grouping.

In response to a question, Col Abu Musa affirmed that the Arab political blocs that are being formed will, in essence, work against the establishment of genuine unity. He saw in the Maghreb grouping an attempt to circumvent the Libyan Jamahiriyah's role and to make Libya submit to a reactionary position.

Abu Musa maintained that what took place with Baghdad, Amman, Cairo, and Sanaa was more dangerous than what took place in the Arab Maghreb, because the Baghdad-Amman-Cairo-Sanaa alliance is closely linked to the center of struggle and the Palestinian issue. He said he thought that this political alliance, which is wrapped in an economic cover, will be directed against Syria and will plot against it. He affirmed that this is an anti-Arab unity alliance and a center of plots against the Palestinian cause.

Col Abu Musa said he was surprised that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had met in Cairo with, in particular, the Zionist foreign minister and with Yasir 'Arafat. He saw in this a Soviet endorsement of the separate peace that Egypt embarked upon under Anwar al-Sadat. He stated that in his view the gravity of such a position would be reflected in the Palestinian national effort against the policy of deviation and apostasy.

Col Abu Musa finally questioned the value of holding an international conference when the Soviet foreign minister has been calling in Cairo and Baghdad for bilateral dialogue between the Arab states and the Zionist entity.

PLO Envoy in Sudan Says 'Uprising' To Continue

NC2702105589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 27 Feb (MENA)—In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Khartoum, Muhammad Abu Raja'i, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Khartoum, has praised President Husni Mubarak's continued efforts and great concern for the Palestinian cause, as well as his sincere call for the convocation of an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories, he said that it will continue and escalate until the occupation of the territories is terminated. He condemned the Israeli authorities' savagery in killing innocent women and children, noting that the entire world had condemned it and sympathized practically with the Palestinian struggle. He remarked that the increasing Israeli brutality is evidence of Israel's bankruptcy in confronting the intifadah, adding that the Palestinian people feel that victory and restoration of their rights and their state are imminent.

Regarding the opening of an embassy for Palestine in Khartoum, Abu Raja'i said that since the proclamation of the Palestinian state, the PLO office in Khartoum has been assuming its work as a full embassy in accordance with the declaration by the Sudanese State Council and Government. [passage omitted]

'Strike Force' Urges Boycott of Israeli Clothing

JN2802205289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio In Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The strike force this morning distributed a call to clothes merchants that includes the following points:

1. Merchants are asked to stop importing Zionist clothes and to dispose of their stock of these clothes as soon as possible and no later than 31 March 1989.

2. Merchants are asked to deal only with clothes made locally in the West Bank and Gaza.

3. The mobile strike force is present in the market to watch the implementation of this.

4. Every merchant should accept little profit, taking into consideration the difficult economic circumstances of our revolutionary people.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Views U.S. Policy

JN2502095089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Brothers: Under the headline "Quick Remarks About U.S. Policy," brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman [PLO official spokesman] writes the editorial in this week's issue of FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the PLO. The text of the editorial follows:

It is very important and necessary for us to know accurately and exactly how the new U.S. Administration views the peace process in the Middle East and Palestine in particular and, consequently, what to expect from the U.S. role in the foreseeable future in this peace process.

We must take into consideration that signs of a major change in the stands of average Americans on our rights do not necessarily mean a major change in the stands of political decisionmakers in Washington, including the new U.S. Administration and Congress. U.S. public opinion has been shocked by the daily Palestinian tragedy shown on television and published in detail in the U.S. press. U.S. public opinion possesses a great of deal of freedom to articulate its views, without pressure, and without accurate calculations of its position and interests. On the contrary, the U.S. policy decisionmaker must balance his decisions among many pressing considerations. U.S. decisionmaking forces try to make decisions to serve their political and economic interests.

Within this context, it is possible to understand the new political language of the new U.S. Administration. This language reflects, in varying degrees, what we can term a positive development in the U.S. political stand. However, this development has occurred within limits, which we must see clearly and in context to avoid falling into the trap of those who want to make this change look larger than it really is, and, on the other hand, to avoid closing our minds and eyes and saying about the U.S. stand today what we have said and repeated over the past 40 years, during which successive U.S. Administrations have looked at the Middle East through an Israeli eye only.

The Reagan administration for a long time resisted the sharp change the intifadah [uprising] has effected in U.S. public opinion. Ironically, this administration, which declared war on the PLO and was behind getting the PLO out of Lebanon, had to declare through Secretary George Shultz himself the beginning of a dialogue with the PLO. The same administration closed down the PLO office in Washington and approved a Congressional resolution linking the PLO and international terrorism.

Fate and the intifadah have punished Shultz for the arrogance of power, which eventually depicted him as an irresponsible statesman, although he was in charge of U.S. foreign policy throughout the Reagan era because the president did not have a deep knowledge of international politics. This change in the U.S. stand on the PLO, which was announced by Shultz himself, has a parallel in Soviet-U.S. relations. President Reagan, who started his presidency publicly opposing international detente, concluded his political career by signing the most important treaties and agreements on accord, missiles, and nulear weapons since the end of the Second World War. Thus, he exceeded what former President Nixon and his Secretary of State Kissinger had achieved with Soviet President Breznev.

What can be concluded from these serious paradoxes in the policy of a superpower is that mistakes in calculations are possible, and that there is no evitable law in U.S. policy that decisions and interests must be identical.

Arab-U.S. relations are another example. Logic says that U.S. interests in the Middle East necessitate that the U.S. decisionmaker give priority in his relations to the Arab countries, not to Israel. However, the reverse takes place because these Arab-U.S. relations are not viewed by Washington as by Arab decisionmakers. Also, these relations do not work in Washington as the Arab rulers hope. In essence, these relations are based on subordination. They do not rise to the level of the European-U.S. or Japanese-U.S. relations. The Arabs talking about these relations in an idealistic and flat manner drop the core of subordination in them. The effectiveness of these relations is killed before it reaches the desk of the U.S. decisionmaker. It is naive to believe that the decisionmaker in Washington is eager to raise Arab-U.S. relations to the level of the evenhandedness in European-U.S. relations, for example.

Hence, we must place Arab factors affecting the U.S. decisionmaker in their appropriate position so as not to fall victim to simplified calculations about the mechanism of U.S. decisionmaking. If it seems that there is a significant change on the street, in Congress, and in the administration, this change does not mean either a divorce from previous policies or an acceptance of the Palestinian and Arab hopes pinned on this U.S. change, which was embodied by Shultz' declaration of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The Bush administration, which was not far from the decisionmaking atmosphere during the Reagan era, began its term by announcing that it will continue the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. However, even after the lapse of a

relatively sufficient time since it assumed power and decisionmaking, the Bush administration stands undecided on the Middle East question and has begun to talk about the need for a sufficient time to make studies and meet with parties to the conflict. Here we can point out indications of what is taking place in Washington on its Middle East policy. Official U.S. and Israeli proposals have completely failed before the stones of the intifadah and the blood of the young stonethrowers, although the new administration officials, are, by the way, well experienced.

Eagleburger served in the first Reagan administration and has a long experience in Middle East affairs. Dennis Ross, official in charge of the foreign policy plans team, and Scowcroft, the President's adviser for national security affairs, also have a long experience in political affairs. Dennis Ross in particular has a broad knowledge of Middle East affairs. Although we do not want to make premature judgments about the work of this team and its correct or incorrect understanding of foreign politics, especially on the Palestine question, we believe that this team will try in its early days in the arena of foreign policy to depend heavily on ready-made plans prepared by specialized academic foreign policy institutes.

We do not forget that the Jewish community in Washington and New York has a great influence on researchers and academicians. The Jewish lobby finances these institutes. Therefore, it is illogical to expect serious and objective research papers. They will necessarily be controlled by a preconception of the proposed political solutions. The common denominator among these research papers and reports is the complete departure from the possibility of discussing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the Palestinian land occupied in 1967 as stipulated by our PNC in its latest session in Algiers.

Those who present this research do not know, for example, that the U.S. Administration's insistence on removing this item from the agenda of the dialogue means that this dialogue is moving in a vicious circle and will not reach any result. The only result of this dialogue will be the failure of President George Bush's administration in understanding the issue and implementing the correct solutions to it.

We will give another example of the hesitation of the new American team to show how the decisionmakers in Washington think. Israeli War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented the idea of elections and a 6-month halt to the intifadah. It is known that presenting the idea of elections under the Israeli occupation only means stopping the intifadah before Israel accepts Palestinian demands—that is, complete withdrawal, the recognition of the right to self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The other objective of the Israeli Government is to cancel the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to ignore the 50 percent of the Palestinian people who live outside Palestine in determining the future of the part of their territory that was occupied in 1967.

Some American quarters in the new administration have welcomed the idea of elections under the occupation and spoken about its soundness, ignoring the objective of this susepct Israeli maneuver.

The U.S. Administration circles also created a (?strange) clamor over Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's statement, from which he retreated, on a temporary truce. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens linked Ilyas Fray's truce—on which he retreated—to a paragraph unrelated to the issue in a speech by the commander in chief in Riyadh. Regrettably, the U.S. Administration followed Moshe Arens' claims and reversed its mistake only after 2 weeks of a strange campaign against the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution.

Another example is the mistaken U.S. treatment of the Palestinian fedayeen operation against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon. The U.S. Administration quickly responded to the Israeli story, and U.S. Secretary of States James Baker announced that he opposes Palestinian military operations whether against civilian or military Israelis inside and outside occupied Palestine.

This is a very strange stand by James Baker. Should he not ask Israel to stop its aggression on our camps and withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon? What does Baker call the killing of Palestinian children at the hands of Israeli soldiers on our occupied territory? And what does James Baker say about the human rights report issued by the Department of State that exposes, in an unprecedented way, the Israeli occupation crimes against the intifadah masses? All U.S. Administration personnel are very lenient in accepting the Israeli story on Middle East events. This must be taken into consideration while holding a dialogue with the new U.S. Administration. For this reason, we should hold tight to the cards of strength as the American view of the crisis will become clear [words indistinct] the Israeli view as happens now.

The prolongation of U.S. hesitation cannot be explained by saying that matters are not clear. This can be explained by saying that the new administration's personnel are searching for a conciliatory formula—and they might not succeed—between the ready Israeli plans backed by a strong lobby and the realistic international view of a settlement based on convening an international conference and implementing the UN resolutions.

We must prepare ourselves for U.S. proposals that differ from those of Israel in form only. We must remain steadfast for a long time in the face of these proposals. Our weapon is in our hands, and our intifadah will continue until the U.S. view of the crisis is aligned within the realistic and objective limits that are accepted on

international and local levels. We believe that the center of political strength on the ground of the intifadah, which is enjoyed by the PLO, must now be reinforced and strengthened, because it is the only way to make rational the policy of the new U.S. Administration in a way that is in harmony with our national objectives of freedom, independence, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital on our Palestinian land.

Violence 'Price' of Shamir U.S. Visit

JN2802211489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Feb 89

[WAFA political editor's commentary: "The Price Shamir Is Preparing for the U.S. Administration"]

[Text] We do not believe that world public opinion has forgotten the horror committed by the Israeli authorities in Sabra and Shatila; that terrible horror that cannot be endured by the heart or conceived by the mind—the pictures of children, women, men, and the elderly; ravaged corpses strewn here and there after the Israeli [words indistinct] passed over them.

We warn this world public opinion that the stage is set inside the occupied territories for another Sabra and Shatila massacre. The cities are being closed off, and the siege is being completed around the camps and villages. The media is being oppressed and kicked out, or their equipment is being destroyed. All this is taking place so that murders, killings, and oppression can take place exactly like they happened in Sabra and Shatila when the camp was closed off for three full days without witnesses.

The picture has not changed, even if some of the people inside it have. Sharon, the hero of the most terrible terrorist scandal in the second half of this century, and Begin, the well-versed terrorist, are followed by Shamir and Arens. The first of these is wanted officially for terrorist crimes by the British Government, which had a Palestine mandate.

We say: The picture has not changed. The target has not changed. Yes, the target has not changed either. The target is always the Palestinian people at whom terrorism, murder, and slaughter are directed. Therefore, we draw the attention of this awareness, this world public opinion, to reckon with the fact that the Palestinian people, who have been subjected to a daily war of extermination by the official Israeli occupation authorities for over 1 year and 3 months, [words indistinct] from the grips of this Israeli terrorism in the same image and way as happened in Sabra and Shatila.

What happened a few days ago in Tulkarm, and before that in Qalqilyah, is now intensified in Nabulus to become a war of extermination or a group massacre against the people, property, holy shrines, and everything that comes within the grip of the terrorist hand that has closed off the city.

If the exorbitant price paid by the Palestinian people for this horrifying violence is the price of Shamir's visit to Washington, so that he can have the intifadah [uprising] trump card to place before the White House officials, we affirm that this wager is a losing one. Yes, we affirm that this wager is a losing one. But despite our great losses, the intifadah shall remain, continue, and intensify. We wonder with great irony: Who convinced Shamir that the price that he has to pay to the U.S. Administration is the heads of the Palestinian children?

Isn't the U.S. Administration itself doing that by ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people? Has Shamir been encouraged by U.S. Secretary of State Baker's statements, who said that the U.S. Administration has not formulated an opinion yet and has not prepared an initiative to solve the Palestine question? Therefore, he wanted to smear the U.S. file with the blood of a Palestinian child in order to help in formulating a U.S. opinion.

'Arafat 'Panting' After Appeasement Policies

JN2802151589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Unattributed talk: "The Pursuit of a Policy Based on Accepting Humiliation and Rushing To Offer Concessions Will Be Useless"]

[Excerpts] USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has ended a lengthy series of talks in the Egyptian capital. He is scheduled to continue these talks in a number of other Arab states after he visited the Syrian, Jordanian, and Iraqi capitals. [passage omitted]

After a lengthy meeting with the Soviet minister, Yasir 'Arafat said that he is ready for a direct dialogue with the terrorist Shamir or with others. Before his arrival in Cairo, 'Arafat gave a press interview to the U.S. television network CBS in which he called for the formation of an economic union grouping the Zionist entity, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine with the aim of establishing a just and comprehensive peace. In that interview, he repeated his readiness to sit face to face with the terrorist Shamir. Besides, he did not forget in that interview to threaten, on behalf of the PLO, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], if it is proven that he is linked to the bombing of the Pan Am plane over Scotland.

This was the Palestinian stand as formulated by Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. What was the Zionist stand formulated at the same time by the terrorist Moshe Arens? Arens has rejected several Soviet proposals. He rejected the notion of holding meetings with 'Arafat or with other PLO representatives. Furthermore, the terrorist Shamir, his prime minister, announced in Paris before and after meeting Mitterrand that he is ready for negotiations with any Arab leaders with the exception of the PLO leaders. As for the terrorist Sharon, he proposed that Amman

should be the capital of the Palestinians, because it is impossible to establish a Palestinian state anywhere outside east Jordan, as he put it.

The Lebanese newspapers referred to a Zionist military scheme to invade southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa', crush the intifadah [uprising] in Palestine, and implement the administrative autonomy plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Several Arab and international news media have said that 'Arafat's statements sought to affirm the PLO's goodwill toward the enemy and to turn the issue of recognizing him into an economic plan that would go hand in hand and integrate with the political plan which has won the blessing of Washington, Tel Aviv, and the Camp David capitals [as heard]. Besides, by threatening Jibril, 'Arafat sought to placate Washington and the enemy's foreign minister, who was present in the Egyptian capital.

'Arafat's policy is based on panting after solutions with the aim of appeasing others and on offering concessions with the objective of placating the enemy. It will be to no avail. The further 'Arafat goes along this course, the more adamant and intransigent the Zionists become. The diplomatic activities currently taking place in Cairo, Paris, and Tokyo seek to affirm the continuity of the Zionist entity. This is not confronted by pursuing a policy of placation. Nay, it is confronted through confrontation: through a military confrontation on the basis of a genuine pan-Arab stand that would help regain the rights to their rightful owners. God is with us. Victory is close at hand. Let us remain together on the road of liberating both land and man.

'Arafat Interview With Israeli Paper Decried
JN2202154289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Commentary by the political editor: "What Did 'Arafat Say to the Correspondent of the Zionist Newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST?"]

[Text] In an interview with (Ted Zobik), correspondent of the Zionist newapaper THE JERUSALEM POST, published on Sunday, 12 February 1989, 'Arafat stressed the following points:

1. The decisive matter now is to convince the United States to force Israel to accept one of two things: Either holding direct negotiations with the PLO or attending the international conference.

2. 'Arafat is now ready to establish a confederation between the Palestinian state and Jordan if King Husayn is ready to accept this.

3. 'Arafat's immediate contribution to the peace process is represented by a tremendous effort to secure the release of the U.S. hostages as soon as possible. He said that he has a general idea about the party holding these hostages.

4. 'Arafat ordered his security experts to conduct a special investigation into the bombing of the Pan Am flight 103 airliner in response to a U.S. request. He said that he had received initial indicators on the crash.

5. There were high-level secret contacts with the successive U.S. Administrations. The interests of both parties would not have been served if these contacts had been revealed at the time.

'Arafat referred to the meeting held in Morocco between Khalid al-Hasan and General Vernon Walters, deputy director of the CIA in 1974, when Ford was the U.S. president and Henry Kissinger was his secretary of state. Besides, 'Arafat himself met several times in 1981 and 1982 with envoys of the U.S. president, including the director of the New York-based institute on East and West security.

Furthermore, 'Arafat launched a mediation effort between Washington and Imam Khomeyni in 1979 on the U.S. hostages held captive in Tehran. This is only a small part of what 'Arafat told the correspondent of the Zionist newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST at his Tunis headquarters.

We condemn, and our masses inside and outside Palestine are dutybound to condemn such statements, which demonstrate how far 'Arafat is ready to go to win the sympathy of the U.S. Administration and to curry favor with the leaders of the Zionist entity. This conflicts with the will of our masses who have identified their enemies, foremost among which are U.S. imperialism and world Zionism with its tool, namely, the Zionist entity.

It is well-known that the Zionist entity's leaders are rejecting and announcing their rejection of the international conference idea. Besides, they are insisting on direct negotiations. Why then does Yasir 'Arafat labor to offer acceptance of the direct negotiations option, which exempts the Zionist entity's leaders from confronting our friends, who are insisting on holding the international conference? Why does 'Arafat insist on violating the PNC resolutions, and offering, through a Zionist newspaper, the idea of establishing a confederation right now, before the establishment of the Palestinian state on the ground and before the evacuation of the Zionist occupation troops?

The PNC resolutions affirm the Palestinians' right to establish a confederation after their independent state is established, not once a proclamation of its establishment is announced. Had 'Arafat said that humanitarian motives are behind his interest in the hostages issue, this would have been understandable. But to say that his immediate contribution to the peace process would be by exerting great efforts to secure the release of U.S. hostages, this means that 'Arafat is humiliatingly flinging himself on the gates of the U.S. Administration, the archenemy of our masses' struggle and the best friend of the Zionist enemy, which has always been the recipient

of U.S. political, military, and economic support. Moreover, the U.S. presidents take pride in their stands in support of the Zionist entity. They have always shown a determination to continue to pursue this policy.

Likewise, had Yasir 'Arafat voiced his sorrow over the innocent lives lost in the Pan Am bombing over Scotland like others who voiced their regret, this would have been understandable. However, to order his security experts to conduct a special investigation into the Pan Am bombing in response to a U.S. request, this is something we do not understand. We have the right to pose the question: Since when have the PLO security experts, if 'Arafat responded favorably to the U.S. request on behalf of the PLO, become tools in the hands of the U.S. Administration?

If the experts he referred to are his own experts, then he has supplied us with new information on his mission. He then would have informed us that he is the owner of a private institution specialized in security missions—conduct accepted in some countries that establish private intelligence organs that offer their services to whoever requests them.

As for his statement that he would punish Ahmad Jibril if he proves to be linked to the Pan Am incident, this very statement is a manifestation of a lack of balance and also shows how he is ready to exceed the limit merely to placate the United States.

Now, we come to the last issue, regarding the unannounced contacts held at the highest levels with the successive U.S. Administrations. The interests of the two parties would not have been served if these contacts had been revealed at the time. The examples that 'Arafat offered are sufficient and good enough. However, we do have the right and our masses have the right to pose the question: Have 'Arafat and his supporters been holding these unannounced contacts in accordance with a decision made by the PLO Executive Committee, which is chaired by 'Arafat himself? Has 'Arafat been submitting reports on these contacts to the PLO Executive Committee? Or has he been carrying out a decision made by himself and keeping to himself information in this regard in accordance with what was contained in the previous paragraph; namely, that he is the owner of a private intelligence organ of his own.

The irrefutable information available to us confirms that no decisions have been issued by the PLO Executive Committee tasking him or others with holding such contacts. Besides, this information also proves that he has not submitted to the PLO Executive Committee any single report on what was happening and developing in these contacts.

Everyday, our masses discover something or something is discovered for them pertaining to the course being pursued by Yasir 'Arafat and the contacts that he holds or which he has assigned certain figures to hold.

When the facts pertaining to these contacts, which are held by Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu Zayyad, Ghassan al-Khatib, Sam'an Khuri, and others with some Zionist leaders are published, it will become clear to our masses how serious these contacts are which are paving the way for holding direct negotiations. God is with us. Victory is close at hand. Let us remain together on the road of liberating both land and man.

PLO Source on 'Fascist Zionist Campaign'

JN2802211189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1923 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A responsible PLO information source has stated the following:

For more than 1 week, Israeli soldiers, backed by fascist settlers, have been launching a programmed campaign of terrorism against the cities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This campaign consists of blowing up houses, destroying foodstuffs, storming shops and houses, sowing confusion, and committing crimes everywhere these forces enter. This daily terrorist plan, which targets a different Palestinian city every day, seeks to quell the intifadah [uprising], if only to the extent of making it appear to have abated or been quelled. This is to enable Shamir, during his visit to the United States next month, to avoid the wrath of European and U.S. public opinion for the policy of repression, crime, and institutionalized terrorism the Israeli Government is conducting against our unarmed Palestinian people.

During this terrorist Israeli campaign, it has been possible to monitor several types of atrocious crimes, including setting Palestinians on fire while still alive; sealing their homes while they are inside with reinforced concrete to make these houses tombs for their occupants; forcing brother to strike brother; and beating the husband in front of his wife and children; not to mention plundering, kidnappings, and other practises that have become a prominent feature of Israeli terrorists.

We do not know whether international public opinion has realized that what is taking place is not isolated incidents but a firm policy and method that develops daily and is being carried out by the Israeli military and fascist settlers on orders and under directives from the Israeli authorities.

From this premise, we appeal to international public opinion, the international organizations—particularly the UN Human Rights Committee—and the humanitarian organizations in the world—particularly in Europe and the United States—to act to halt these collective massacres that are being perpetrated against our people in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, Nabulus, and Jerusalem, cities that are the target of this fascist Zionist campaign, which has now assumed serious proportions in the heroic city of Nabulus, where all types of crimes are being committed.

We must make Shamir, his terrorist government, and all those who stand behind them and who seek to allow them to gain time understand that the intifadah will continue and will not stop and that irrespective of their collective and terrorist crimes, these crimes will not make our people halt their struggle to attain their just and legitimate rights, which are being recognized and respected. This places Israel in a predicament and angers the Israeli leaders.

O international public opinion, which has not yet forgotten the Sabra and Shatila massacre, line up to tell the Israeli terrorists: Take your hands off Nabulus.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed During Visit to Japan

OW2402145389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said here Friday that Israel should not fear an international peace conference as such a forum would only be an "umbrella" for direct negotiations.

In an interview in Tokyo with Japanese reporters, Mubarak said the proposed U.N.-backed conference was only an umbrella and that the "backbone" was direct negotiations between parties in the region.

Israel has repeatedly rejected calls for such a conference, calling instead for direct talks with other nations.

Mubarak, in Tokyo to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, known posthumously as Emperor Showa, said once Israel was assured no solution would be imposed by the forum, there would be "no excuse for not starting the convention."

Mubarak repeated his position that both the Soviet Union and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) have a rightful place at the talks.

He predicted that if the PLO were left out of any talks, terrorist groups would retaliate in Europe.

"If we neglect them (the PLO), my feeling is that several terrorist groups will be formed," Mubarak said.

While in Tokyo, Mubarak has held separate meetings with various world leaders, including U.S. President George Bush, Jordan's King Husayn, and Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Mubarak, who called Bush a "friend" of Egypt, said he does not view the new president as a hardliner. He said he expects the new administration to proceed on a "very good basis" toward bringing peace to the Middle East, adding that he hoped to discuss the matter more with Bush during a visit to Washington in the "near future."

Mubarak also said he had accepted an invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Moscow but said he was "very busy" at the moment and had no immediate plans to go.

Mubarak welcomed increased Soviet participation in the Middle East peace process, saying Moscow should not be ignored.

"The U.S.S.R. is the second superpower in the world," he said. "We shouldn't ignore them."

The Soviet Union "has its own interests in the area, as well as the United States has its," he said.

Mubarak spoke in English through the 30-minute meeting, making several jokes with reporters. But he raised his voice at one moment when the subject turned to the intifada, the name given to the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"Whoever tells you he is capable of stopping the intifada, he is wrong," Mubarak said firmly. He said to solve the problem, the residents in the region must be given hope for the future.

"Tell them the conference is going to start and their rights are going to be discussed," he said.

Mubarak said he and Takeshita had agreed that Egypt and Japan could cooperate in several areas, including increased aid to Africa and stronger business ties.

Addressing the Japanese people at large, Mubarak said, "you are far away from the Middle East, but you are near in the interests of business."

On Role of Superpowers

NC2502194989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 25 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that both superpowers should take part in resolving the Middle East problem. He added: "Rapprochement between the superpowers facilitates their participation in resolving the Middle East problem. There is no contradiction in their roles. Participation by the Soviet Union does not mean that it will play a bigger role in comparison to the United States. Both countries have interests and friends in the region."

President Mubarak said that peace is very precious and therefore is worth concessions by all sides. All the countries in the region seek peace, he added.

Mubarak said that Egypt is currenlty undertaking efforts to convince all the parties concerned of the need to hold an international peace conference, mentioning in this respect his recent meeting with the Israeli foreign minister in Cairo. He noted that during that meeting he had tried to understand the Israeli fears concerning such a conference.

In an interview which he granted to Egyptian television prior to his departure from Tokyo today, President Mubarak said that he had explained to Arens and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze his own understanding of the peace conference. Mubarak told the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers that the conference would be an umbrella under which the two superpowers and other permanent members of the UN Security council would participate. He added that following the introductory speeches, direct negotiations would take place without interference by any of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Mubarak said that Israel has no reason to fear such a conference. He acknowledged that the conference would be just the beginning and predicted that the talks would last a long time. The president noted that the mere launching of the international conference would give the Palestinians living in the occupied territories hope that their issue would be resolved and therefore could calm the uprising.

Asked about Egypt's diplomatic successes and how these influence economic issues, Mubarak said that Egypt has become a major state in the region and that its ties with the East, West, and the superpowers have improved unprecedentedly.

President Mubarak said that Egypt enjoys great freedom of movement in tackling Arab and international issues because of the recognition and weight it has gained on all levels. He mentioned that many of the Eastern and Western officials with whom he had conferred in Tokyo spoke highly of Egypt and its leading role with regard to Middle East peace. Mubarak said that the esteem in which Egypt is held is helpful with regard to resolving its economic problems.

Regarding the talks he held with Japanese officials during his stay in Tokyo, President Mubarak described this as a courtesy visit. He noted that Japan is cooperating with Egypt in many fields and is extending aid.

President Mubarak commented on the Arab Cooperation Council [AAC], describing it as a grouping similar to the GCC and the Arab Maghreb Union. He reiterated that the ACC is neither an axis nor directed against anyone. Mubarak stressed that it is an open economic grouping which any state could join.

President Mubarak said that consultations should be held in case pan-Arab political issues arise which call for such consultations among Arab states. He underlined that the ACC's ties with all Arab countries are ones of fraternity and cooperation.

Zaki Badr Addresses People's Assembly 21 Feb

JN2202181989 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
21 Feb 89 pp 2, 5, 7

[Excerpts] Yesterday's People's Assembly session was one of the most heated and exciting ever. The speaker was Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, and the opposition was lurking for him. The first exciting issue was a recording of the voice of a money dealer talking with Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, an independent People's Assembly deputy. Salah inquired about the selling price of "American" currency. There was then further excitement when the interior minister presented secret pictures with a videocassette recorder on the torture of detainees published in AL-WAFD.

The minister proved with sound and pictures that the pictures of torture were forged in a toilet. The excitement reached its peak when Wafdist member Tal'at Raslan attacked the interior minister with his hands. Then fist fights broke out. The member was taken out. Rif'at Mahjub managed to control the session. The members affirmed at the end of the session their faith in the government's security policy and the interior minister and police force who execute this policy.

At the beginning of the session, Rif'at Mahjub said: For 2 hours and 20 minutes, the interpelators presented their stands. They said all they wanted to say. The opposition made disgusting obscenities in this hall. The minister listened with great calm and interest. This was a victory for democracy. And today it is the interior minister's turn.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr then came forward to the podium and opened his speech with the Koranic verse: When it is said to them: Make not mischief on the earth, they say: Why should we want to make peace? For sure, they are the ones who make mischief, but they do not realize it.

The interior minister began his statement by affirming his pride in standing before the People's Assembly and addressing it to explain his decision which supports or amends the ministry's policy. He said: We do not function secretively and do not say anything we do not do or do anything we do not say. He added that our policies and measures have no aim other than the interest of the nation and the citizen. Therefore, we welcome any questions and interpelations, which present us with the most appropriate opportunities to extract the truth and reality from underneath the dust of lies and falsehoods. [passage omitted]

Zaki Badr added: We will discuss the general trend of the interpelations and the questions—that is, the claim that the Interior Ministry organs are abusing their powers by following a repressive policy in their dealing with events and persons. The policy that is described as tough could be moderate or lenient under circumstances that require extreme firmness.

Badr said: Before discussing what the police did we should ask: What did the police face? The policeman is blamed and punished for any obscene word that he says to any honest person. However, the policeman will be blamed if he does not shoot a criminal who deserves to be killed according to the law. We must ask: What happened in Al-Kawm al-Ahmar in the Awsim district, in Abu 'Umar village in Kafr al-Shaykh, in the Qana Governorate, in Al-Minya, and in 'Ayn al-Shams? What happened and what are the extremist and terrorist groups doing?

The interior minister reviewed the events that took place in the Kawm al-Ahmar village on 30 April:

[Passage omitted] I immediately instructed the security organs to apprehend those involved in the Al-Kawm al-Ahmar incidents, using all possible force and determination while abiding by the provisions of the law after obtaining permission from the prosecution. Several hundred suspects were apprehended and transferred to the prosecution which ordered the imprisonment and trial of 32 defendants. The prosecution did not at all accuse the police of using arbitrary measures or violating the law. Following these incidents, Deputy 'Isam al-'Aryan went to the village inhabitants and questioned them. The people did not respond to him, but left for the Interior Ministry to deplore the incidents which took place in their village.

As for the incidents in the village of Abu 'Umar in Kafr al-Shaykh, they began when the Ministry of Agriculture issued administrative decisions to remove 350 illegal brick plants. When the security forces left the Agriculture Ministry's engineers in charge of removing six brick plants, they were surprised to see people standing in their way, hurling stones and firing at them. The police were forced to use tear gas and to fire in the air. Four policemen were wounded and the death of one citizen and the injury of two others were reported. The prosecution is still investigating the circumstances of the death. The prosecution also released the defendants for insufficient evidence. As a precautionary measure, they were arrested and later released when the security situation stabilized.

I do not understand how we can ask the police to do their best to accomplish a certain job and then blame them for responding and for their efforts. What can the police when they are subjected to assault, disparagement, and slander regardless of their positive or negative points. The most serious point which draws attention in the incidents that took place in the villages of Al-Kawm al-Ahmar and Abu 'Umar is that the police were underestimated and attacked. How can the citizen feel safe when he sees that the police are unable to provide security or even protect themselves? A policeman is the half that complements the law and without him the provisions of the law become mere words on paper.

If we move on to the rest of the interpellations, questions, and queries, we will find that they all deal with what they call the misuse of the emergency law and encroachments on innocent citizens. [passage omitted]

When we review the events to which they refer and the persons whom they call their witnesses; and when we review the stands and trends of deputies, we can confidently say that the issue in question can be summed up in one phrase: The Interior Ministry's measures against elements of fanaticism and terror.

Some of those who presented questions and queries tried to formulate them in general phrases, talking about what they termed the hampering of the constitution and the attack on rights and freedoms. They also claimed that the interior minister's execution of the emergency law is directed mainly against the legitimate opposition. However, this claim collapses before the reality of execution which the honorable Assembly members are following and which is also followed by the broad masses in different positions. [passage omitted]

The minister wondered: What has the emergency law done to the legitimate opposition? Has it confiscated any of its newspapers despite the fact that, in many instances, they are full of excesses and lies? Has one journalist been arrested due to his opinion on an issue or an attack against an official? Any one who follows our democratic experience both inside and outside Egypt knows for sure that these are unsubstantiated and unjust allegations, against which there is no proof.

Then, let's call a spade a spade. Let us go directly to their objectives and say that these queries, interpellations, and certain questions are declaring support and assistance, and aim to defend and support elements of fanaticism and terror which include some who are affiliated to some legitimate parties, to which they resort and seek protection. I say with decisive clarity that any person from the legitimate or illegitimate opposition who practices fanaticism and terror will be subjected to the law with the most extreme measures allowed to it.

He added: What happened in 'Ayn Shams? Is is true that the cause of all these major events was due, as claimed yesterday by Deputy Majdi Husayn, to an attack against a police detective. This claim does not only reveal the absurdity of he who says it, but also displays contempt for those who hear. What happened in 'Ayn Shams is that certain members of the Jihad Organization tried during the second half of last year to transform their individual random practices into planned and organized work to impose their presence as a state within a state, which lays down whatever regulations it wants and implements the laws it desires, using certain private mosques as centers for their movement and a base for their activity.

These elements organized seminars and conferences in mosques to make sensational speeches and distribute thousands of leaflets and publications attacking the system and its leaderships and moving the emotions of the masses to desert it.

It used violence to impose control over the inhabitants in the region and caused scores of incidents. They attacked wedding ceremonies where music was played, owners of video rental shops, and women walking with men even if they were their husbands. They attacked Christian and Muslim clergymen and a number of citizens from the Christian community. They also destroyed public buildings and set fire to cars. The strength of these elements spread to such an extent that it prevented citizens from informing on them and pushed them to submit to their commands, which they execute openly on the streets.

These elements did not confine their activities to 'Ayn Shams, but organized marches and demonstrations. They actually managed to lead seven marches and demonstrations to Ramsis Square, Al-Azhar, the Supreme Court of Justice, and other areas.

The police have confronted these elements ever since they started their activities. Clashes between them and the security forces continued on a small and comprehensive scale. Many battles took place, some of which were terribly fierce, martyring police officers and injuring many others. The ferocity of these battles was not due to the strength in quality and quantity of these elements, but goes back to the nature of the region in which the battles took place, since they are districts in which the population is highly congested in buildings with narrow alleys.

The police forces could have overcome this criminal activity from the first days had they not considered the security of the innocent in this district. However, in every confrontation, they endangered themselves as much as possible and calculated their steps in hitting only the outlaws without endangering others.

The citizens of the district highly valued this humanitarian police stand. They were more sympathetic and cooperative with it. They deeply supported and appreciated it after they had suffocated under the control of these groups and suffered from their attacks. They became convinced that the spirit and teachings of Islam reject their methods and contradict their behavior.

I will deposit all the reports on the details of the 'Ayn Shams incidents at the secretariat of your esteemed assembly. However, suffice it to say here—to clarify the decisiveness of these incidents—that the latest police search campaign in the dens of these elements on 7 December 1988 resulted in capturing 140 individuals, who were placed in custody. In addition, 150 were arrested. The weapons and ammunition that were seized amounted to 3 rifles and pistols; 2 containers of highly explosive TNT; ½ kg of gelignite paste; 13 detonators; 26 home-made bombs; petrol bombs; a large number of knives, swords, and the like; chains; whips; and sacks full of chemical and explosive materials. These weapons were seized in the homes of the accused and in secret places inside mosques, which they used as bases for their activities.

He added: As for the subject deputy Muhammad Mahfuz Hilmi dealt with concerning the circumstances that led to the death of citizen Jabir Muhammad Ahmad, who was accused of stabbing one of the police officers with a penknife during the 'Ayn Shams incidents, on 19 December 1988, information was disclosed on the disappearance of some of the extremist elements in the 'Uthman ibn 'Affan Mosque in 'Ayn Shams. The necessary traps were set to catch them. When citizen Jabir Muhammad Ibrahim, who was one of the leading figures in the Al-Jihad organization, was leaving the mosque, Major 'Ala' al-Siba'i came forward to arrest him. However, he surprised the major by stabbing him in the stomach with a penknife in an attempt to escape. The forces accompanying the major warned him, but he continued to flee. They fired at him, wounding him in the thigh. He was caught. The prosecution assumed its investigations and decided to lock him up as a precaution. He was transferred to Al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital to provide him with the necessary attention and to place him under protection. However, he died a few days later due to a severe drop in blood pressure.

If we move to what was mentioned in Deputy Mustafa Ramadan Mahjub's question about events in the Qina governorate. This governorate has witnessed in the last 6 months visibile elements of fanaticism and terror, which were more dangerous than the 'Ayn Shams events because the criminal plots were concentrated against citizens from the Christian community. This activity was represented by attacks on Christians while they were in their shops, inflicting injuries on them, and setting fire to some of their cars and shops. There were also attacks against Christian students as they were on their way to take their secondary education examinations and an attack against a pharmacy belonging to a Christian, destroying its contents and injuring those working in it. Their criminal activity extended to distributing leaflets, inciting people after the Friday prayers at mosques, and attacking the soldiers guarding Qina prison.

All these events were registered and recorded. Some of the accused have admitted that they committed these crimes and said they were planning to commit other crimes that would have included setting fire to Christians' properties in Luxor, police cars, and some tourist hotels, and attacking women tourists who wandered in remote areas. The accused were referred to the prosecution, which ordered their imprisonment for 15 days under interrogation. I will present to your esteemed Assembly's secretariat the details of these events, the latest of which took place on 15 February when four members of the Jihad Organization were arrested while in possession of a quantity of dynamite and gelignite.

The events of the Al-Minya governorate are not different from events that took place in 'Ayn Shams and Qina, although the Al-Minya events were marked by the concentration on Christian churches and religious institutions. I will present to your esteemed Assembly's secretariat details of these events.

The minister wondered: Should these groups be left to establish their states within the state and appoint their princes as rulers, who issue and implement whatever laws they want? Should we let these groups harm Islam in the name of Islam and violate all the honorable values which it brought for the guidance and mercy of man?. The Islamic ulema have said their word and affirmed that Islam denounces their aggression and rejects their ideas and practices, so what pretext do they have left?

The whole world—north, south, east and west—is dominated by sectarian seditions and torn by racial differences. Do you want us to abandon the highest degrees of security and protection while we know that a match can start a fire, whose danger has no limits? We have no option but to face the practices of terror and fanaticism with all the power and resources we can mass, with all the methods and means we have, and with all the powers provided to us by laws, headed by the emergency law.

Is it true that we violate the sanctity of mosques and threaten those who pray and meditate in them? There are over 70,000 mosques in Egypt and over 2,000 Islamic societies that spread guidance and teach the Koran. Why should the police leave tens of thousands of mosques and societies and choose to violate the sanctity and theaten the safety of prayers in a certain number of them? The elements of extremism and terrorism have actually turned some mosques in the governorates into centers for their schemes. They used their pulpits for defamation and vituperation; they also used their courtyards to beguile the Muslim youths and attract them to their extremist ideas. What is more is that they hid weapons and explosives in these mosques, the latest of which were confiscated in Adam Mosque in the 'Ayn Shams area.

What is then required of the security organs? Shall we let them plan, plot, and begin their attacks on the police forces from the mosques without moving to confront them under the pretext of maintaining the sanctity of the mosques? And who is encroaching on the sanctity of mosques? Is it the extremists, who are using them as dens for their aggression and as depots for their weapons, or the policemen, who are purging them of the elements of evil and aggression?

We welcome dialogue that convinces them that they are sinful and that they should abandon their evil and aggression. However, we are not ready for dialogue that makes us appease them, make peace with them, and stop confronting them, and thus give them both the right to sow corruption and the freedom to perpetrate sabotage and deception.

They talk about the death of leading extremist Majid al-'Utayfi, who was indicted in the case of the Al-Jihad organization in 1981 and who was planning new terrorist operations, according to confirmed information. His house in Asyut was searched and automatic weapons and hand grenades were found there. The police then pursued him after he had escaped to Cairo. As the forces were about to apprehend him at the Al-Jala'-26 July Street intersection, he began to fire with one of two guns he was carrying. The police had to defend themselves, and he was killed in the shootout. This incident, however, is being examined by the investigating authorities.

In the law of equality there is saving of life to you, O men of understanding. And God, whose wisdom is revered, said: The punishment of those who wage war against God and His Apostle and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: Execution, or crucifiction, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land. [Koranic verse]

I hope that this explains the dimensions of the dangers threatening the security of the homeland and the citizen as indicated from the practices of the groups of violence and terrorism and their schemes. The simplest thing that can be said about them is that signs portend danger, and remaining silent over them is some sort of negligence. There should be a serious and decisive stand in which all cooperate for the sake of protection and confrontation.

All sides should define their stands and choose their positions so that they will clearly know who stands with legitimacy and law and who supports those violating them. A huge battle is raging on a braod front between the security organs and the groups of extremism and terrorism, and we want to know exactly who is with us and who is against us.

What does this overflowing stream of interpellations, questions, and queries in defense of the groups of extremism and terrorism mean to them? It tells them: Continue your march, continue your aggression, and implement your schemes for we are behind you to support you, defend you, and protect you. It tells them: Continue your march.

We are facing a fierce current of animosity aimed at making allegations and slanders to harm the police and encroach on their efforts and sacrifices.

The police officers tortured the defendants in the Jihad organization case and violated their rights. They were pleased to see them [the police officers] behind bars, but the just jurisidiction acquitted all of them without exception.

They said that a police officer attacked one of the members of this esteemed assembly and submitted interpelations. They spoke harshly about the police. However, the prosecution suspended investigations into the case because there was no evidence.

They spoke about the police, you are speaking about the police, and they are still speaking about the police. They only speak lies. We can say many things about them and they are true. We can speak about one of those people, of whom Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh said: "They wear the guise of Islam on their bodies, but Islam did not enter their souls." We can talk about such a person through an incident related to dealing with hard currency on the black market. We can speak about his double face with the investment companies that assassinated the money of orphans and widows. He said in one of his speeches at the Badawy 'Atiyyah Mosque in the Al-Manawat village that these investment companies deal with usury. Meanwhile, this person received tens of thousands of pounds without hesitation or embarrassment. Thus, we read the

Islamic teachings in his words but do not see them in his deeds. Grievously odious is it in the sight of God that you say that which you do not. [Koranic verse]

We can also talk about an editor of an opposition newspaper who published photographs of torture and documents which he attributed to the Interior Ministry organs. However, facts were disclosed a few days ago. The editor admits in a recorded speech—with a permit from the legal authorities—how he forged these pictures and documents. He also disclosed a mean scheme to insult the security organs and tarnish their image.

We do not level accustaions without evidence. I now have documents and recordings to prove that what I am saying is true. I would like the esteemed assembly to allow me to present part of these recordings.

The assembly agreed by majority on the minister's request. The minister took a cassette recorder from one of his two suitcases. Three television sets and a video-cassette recorder were brought into the assembly. At this point the opposition members shouted and objected to the playing of the tapes inside the assembly. 'Isam al-'Aryan asked the assembly to present a film he was holding in his hand. Dr al-Mahjub said: Yes, but after we finish this. Someone asked that the opposition must have the same opportunity of presenting its tapes.

After long shouting and protests, the assembly heard a recorded cassette of a telephone conversation with the voice of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il in which one of the moneydealers offers to buy from him some thousands of hard currency. Once again, the opposition members protested and said that the case is still before the prosecution. Zaki Badr said: The recording is not for Salah Abu Isma'il, because he has immunity. The recording is for a money-dealer from the Jihad Organization speaking with Salah Abu Isma'il on currency. Dr al-Mahjub said that the minister has a permit from the prosecution and each paper is sealed with the prosecution seal. The opposition members escalated their protests. Here Dr al-Mahjub said furiously: The assembly rejected your suggestions and agreed on hearing and seeing the tapes that the minister brought in here. You do not run the session, and this is not democracy. Let the minister continue his statement. The interior minister shouted: Are you defending a money-dealer? Let the press write this.

The minister then began to show a videotape which he said exposes the falsehoods of the opposition papers and the forgery of the pictures of torture they publish. He said: The respectable opposition papers publish much scum and obscenities. (Shouts and screams). However, AL-WAFD used to publish falsehoods and distortions to the people, especially false distortions about the police. In this tape, one of the accomplices in the forgery will explain to you how they were forging pictures about torture and how they used to publish letters which they attributed to the state security. This will be explained to you by Ayman Nur, an editor at AL-WAFD.

The videotape was shown, and the voice was unclear. The minister said that he has a transcript of what the editor said, and began to read the transcript that explains the operation of the pictures. The minister went on until he reached Mustafa Shardi, and said: I do not know him.

Here, the opposition interrupted him, shouting: How do you not know him? He is a deputy. This is an insult. The minister replied: I do not know him. The voices of the Wafd deputies became louder, protesting this method. The minister then continued reading the transcript of the video.

He said that he has documents to implicate the party leader personally. He added: Let me talk about Fu'ad Siraj al-Din and his family. Here, Wafd member Tal'at Raslan ran toward the platform and began to beat Interior Minister Zaki Badr, who for a moment was taken by surprise. However, he restrained himself. He was quickly surrounded by the assembly guards, the policemen escorting him, and some of the NDP deputies, who hit the attacking deputy. Chaos erupted, and deputies from the opposition and the majority rushed to the platform, trying to calm the situation.

Meanwhile, the minister did not waste time and tried to continue his speech in the spirit of challenge, and the voice from the platform became louder. Al-Mahjub said: What is this? We were demanding him to finish his speech. However, we will listen to him and you have only yourselves to blame. The minister will continue what he has to say. Deputy Tal'at Raslan must leave the hall immediately, or he will be forced to leave.

Then, Al-Mahjub addressed the assembly and said: Do you agree? The assembly agreed. Al-Mahjub added: The subject of the deputy will be presented to the disciplinary committee at once.

Ibrahim Shukri went toward the platform, and on his way there he was intercepted by some NDP deputies and received a few punches.

Meanwhile, Kamal al-Shadhili was standing next to Zaki Badr whispering words in his ear; then he went to Dr Al-Mahjub, calling for adjouring the session.

Al-Mahjub said: We have had enough. I have received a proposal from 75 deputies to close the session.

The assembly agreed to confirm its confidence in the security policy pursued by the government and to renew confidence in the Interior Ministry and the police force, which executes this policy.

The session adjourned to Saturday, 4 March.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sees Saudi, Lebanese Officials

LD2802144189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The brother leader has received Shaykh 'Ali Musallim, the personal emissary of King Fahd. The brother leader also received George Hawi, general secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party, and Taysir Qubba'h, member of the PFLP Political Bureau.

Receives Siad Barre Letter

LD2602032689 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 25, [JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY]—The leader of the revolution received Brigadier Siad Abdullah Omar [spelling as received], the commander of the Navy and coastal defence, as an emissary from the President of Somalia Mohamed Siad Barre, who delivered to the leader a handwritten letter from President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Morocco

King Hassan Holds Talks With PLO's 'Arafat

LD2802134889 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Feb 28 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Monday afternoon Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat who was accompanied by PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman and his adviser Sulayman al-Sharfah.

The audience was attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, the king's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda and the representative of the Palestinian state in Rabat Abu Marwan.

Arafat had arrived in Marrakech earlier in the day.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives With Saddam Husayn Message

LD2802134589 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Feb. 28 (MAP)—Vice-President of the Iraqi Council [title as received] and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here Monday with a message from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II.

Tariq 'Aziz told the media upon arrival that President Saddam Husayn, acting chirman of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), had entrusted him with conveying to King Hassan II, in his quality as acting chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), his sincere and brotherly greetings and the wish of the ACC member countries to establish with those of the UMA close cooperation relations.

He said he will also convey to the sovereign a personal message from President Saddam Husayn hailing the backing extended by the Moroccan king, government and people to Iraq during its war against Iran.

The Iraqi people and leaders renew their gratitude and thanks to Morocco after the reestablishment of peace in the Gulf region, the Iraqi official said.

Delivers Message to Hassan

LD2802192489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] This afternoon His Majesty King Hassan II received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Samir al-'Aziz al-Najm, Iraqi ambassador to Rabat, at the royal palace in Marrakech. During the meeting Mr Tariq 'Aziz gave His Majesty King Hassan II a copy of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] recent agreement. Present at the meeting were also Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, two advisors of his majesty the king. Following the meeting Mr Tariq 'Aziz made the following statement:

[Begin recording] I was honored by the meeting with his majesty the king. I delivered a message to him from his brother President Saddam Husayn, regarding the Arab Cooperation Council countries' desire to establish relations of brotherhood and cooperation with their brothers in the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. As is known, Iraq is chairman of the current ACC session and Morocco is chairman of the AMU session.

I also delivered another brotherly message to his majesty from his brother Saddam Husayn expressing the deep desire for strengthening and developing the relations of brotherhood and cooperation which have existed between Iraq and Morocco for many years, thanks be to God. I also renewed the high appreciation for his majesty and Morocco's pan-Arab attitudes in backing Iraq during its subjugation to the 8-year Iranian aggression.

His majesty has entrusted me with his greetings and wishes to his brother President Saddam Husayn. His majesty has also entrusted me with his assessment and analysis of the current Arab situation and what steps should be taken to consolidate Arab solidarity and support the Palestinian cause, which occupy a prominent place in the interests of his majesty, his brother President Saddam Husayn, and the Arab leaders. [end recording]

Legislature Ratifies Arab Maghreb Union Treaty

LD0103000689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] This evening the Chamber of Representatives unanimously ratified the treaty on the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union at the end of the extraordinary session held on this issue. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Mahdi Addresses Parliament

EA2802073589 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Feb 89

[First part of address by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to parliament on 27 February in reply to the Armed Forces memorandum—date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Brothers, members of the General Command and commanders of the Commands of the Armed Forces: As we promised for this morning, here is the reply to the memorandum you have kindly presented to the head of State Council and copied to me. My reply will comprise an introduction and seven points.

Introduction: There is no doubt that the homeland is passing through unusual circumstances and our defense efforts dictated the concern expressed in the 20 February Armed Forces memorandum thus necessitating an unusual address to the political authority. I am of the view that the reply should be couched in a direct style. These deliberations fall in line with the fact that exchanges are normal between those who hold political responsibilities and those who hold military responsibilities, particularly in circumstances of combat. History records the exchange which occurred, in similar conditions, between Churchill and De Gaulle when the first said: The war is too important to be left to the generals only. The second replied: it is too important to be left to the politicians only. The two men constituted a military-political figure and a political-military figure and interaction between the two matters is inevitable, particularly in combat conditions.

The Sudanese experience in political-military negotiations has passed through several stages. During the era of the first democratic regime, negotations were based on mutual avoidance, and each of the two parties moved in its own circle. During the May [Numayri] era, negotiations were based on contradictions.

The Armed Forces were told: You are one of the sectors [shari'ah] of the People's Working Force. If they behaved independently they were told: You should be a disciplined force. What we need now is to benefit from our experience and base our negotiations on the foundation of integrated responsibility and exchange of advice under two principles: commitment to constitutional legitimacy and commitment to military discipline. Through experience and practice we can achieve a sound Sudanese equation.

The seven points:

The first point: There are points raised in the memorandum on which we do not differ. They are:

A. The internal front is disunited and this has a negative effect on the defense tasks.

B. The current war continues without any support from public opinion in the country.

C. The Armed Forces lack basic resources, particularly the Air Force, the Air Defense, and the Naval Defense.

D. The rebellion in the south enjoys unusual support from different sources.

The second point: I wish to comment on seven particular paragraphs in the memorandum which you have sent. The first paragraph said: And finally all the donor countries have stopped offering the minimum of our vital requirements. I say: The states that supported us militarily during the May era after a period of alignment with the East were the United States and Saudi Arabia.

U.S. military assistance began to be reduced during the last years of the May era because of a general reduction of U.S. military assistance. The U.S. Government was obliged to reduce its budget deficit and this led to a reduction of American military assistance to other states. A state like Somalia now gets American military support of $1.5 million [as heard] a year. The second reason for the reduction of U.S. military assistance to Sudan is the fact that Sudan is no longer aligned, as it is used to be, to American strategic objectives. It rather follows a non-aligned policy. Saudi military support began to assume large proportions in 1976, but did not continue in substantial amounts thereafter. Sudan is currently receiving military support from three Arab states and has large arms deals with a number of other states.

The second paragraph said: The Western states and some voluntary organizations have employed all their resources to influence states aiding Sudan and this can be clearly seen in the position of the EEC toward Sudan. I say: The EEC has not supported Sudan militarily. However, the EEC's civil support for Sudan has not been broken off. On the contrary, it has increased in the following sectors: in development projects, in the rehabilitation of projects, in reconstruction, in migrants, in relief, and in refugees. For all these sectors there are specific programs which are supported financially and materially.

The third paragraph said: In this respect, we must dwell briefly on and conclude that what Sudan is witnessing today in the sphere of its internal front is a clear pointer to a looming threat to the future of the homeland. I say: Contradiction in the Sudanese arena is accounted for by objective circumstances which exist in every country with nonhomogenous national structures. Thus there are religious, cultural, racial, and tendential frictions and the state of Sudan in these respects is better than that of neighboring African states inasmuch as Sudan enjoys structures for a higher level of national unity.

Second Part of Address

EA2802125789 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Second part of address by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to parliament on 27 February in reply to the Armed Forces memorandum—date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Then there are contradictions attributable to Sudan's particular circumstances. These are: party differences, procedural differences, and doctrinal differences. Party differences have been a fact of life in Sudan ever since independence, but these differences are milder now than they were in the sixties. The procedural differences are attributable to forces whose political and economic importance outweighs their numerical representation. This creates opportunities for some doctrinal forces that have limited numerical representation to bring pressure through certain channels to obtain for themselves greater political influence.

As for the doctrinal differences, these are now centered on Islam's role in politics, which, when considered with the causes of other differences, constitute a complex, multifaceted situation. Circumstances are capable of making these differences milder or sharper, but there is no way they can be eliminated with the stroke of a pen.

The fourth paragraph said: All this has frustrated the hopes of supplying everything the Armed Forces needed for battle, because these hopes conflicted with the bitter reality of the internal and external policies of the state. I say: Military support for the Sudanese state in the past was to a large extent as follows: The Soviet deal in 1970 was worth 200,000,000 [unit of currency unspecified] and the story of this deal began with a request from me to the Soviet Union in 1967, when I was prime minister.

The Soviet leadership complied with the request, and it was pursued by Mr Muhammad Ahmad Mahjub. It was completed by the May [Numayri] regime in 1970. Saudi military support for Sudan totalled $200 million. Then, there was U.S. military aid, which began to fall as I have already said. Military expenditures last year in Sudan totalled about $400 million and this year these expenditures will not be less than $400 million. This means hard currency expenditures for our military needs are now greater than ever and to settle any dispute on this question, I think we should appoint a technical committee to review and clarify these facts.

The fifth paragraph said: We, all of us, the leadership and the ranks scattered throughout every part of Sudan must stress unequivocally that we support the noble Sudanese people's decision to safeguard democracy, just as we confirmed on 6 April 1986. We reject any form of dictatorship and we shall always remain loyal to our sacred duty to protect and maintain the sovereignty of the homeland. This is a positive commitment in itself and there is no replacement for it. A military coup is possible and easy and a revolution against such a coup is possible and it has happened. It is up to us to ensure that our country is spared from entrering such a whirlpool.

The sixth paragraph called for unity on the internal front and said the base of government had to be broadened in order to end this dangerous situation. I say this is a correct principle. We have striven to achieve it and have partly succeeded. However, one party later withdrew because it wanted to dictate terms. This upset the consensus. Now the increasing danger facing the country is making political forces think with more consideration and firmness about how to unite the internal front.

The seventh paragraph said that out of loyalty to God, the homeland, and our people, we should take the necessary measures within a week. I say this looks like a warning. It opens the doors to confusion and allows those who want to plot a military coup to take advantage of the situation. Those who fear a military coup will be put at a disadvantage. No matter what wise men may think, the door will indeed be opened and the result of these ambitions and acts could be disaster.

Thirdly: There are six important points, some of which the memorandum mentioned and others which it omitted, although these points were definitely in the minds of the authors.

I would like to tackle these issues, the first being, foreign policy. Our foreign policy alignment caused us all sorts of national security problems during the May Regime. Sudan became aligned under the May Regime and that resulted in the creation of a counterweight axis which pulled in the opposite direction. This was the Aden axis, which adopted the rebel movement, arming, training, and financing it, and creating the problems we have.

We have been accused of aligning ourselves with Iran. But this is not correct. We called for an end to the war when Iran wanted to go on. However, the peace camp won out in Iran and the war ended. We have affirmed time and again that from the religious point of view, we are Sunnis. By ethnic origin we are Arabs, but we see the necessity of religious and national consensus. And this is what the Arab countries are heading for.

We were accused of being pro-Libya. The truth is that our country has experienced the pitfalls of Libyan enmity. We decided that our relations should be based on understanding. That has happened since we have managed to play a positive part in the reconciliation between Libya and Chad, and we are now working for reconciliation between Libya and Egypt. We have stated that our relations with one neighbor should not be at the expense of another. So, we have achieved a number of benefits for our country by having good relations with Libya. These are relations built on mutual interest and not subordination.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sympathizes with us, although its military support to our country has not yet exceeded the level of its sympathy. We have assured Egypt of the importance we attach to our relationship with them. We have endorsed this relationship. But for some reason Egypt remains uncommitted regarding our war in the south on the pretext that it is an internal question. We have explained the situation to our Egyptian brothers and they know that aggression in the south is backed by known foreign forces. They know the role of the Aden axis in that war. Yet they have remained uncommitted throughout three successive regimes in Sudan, the May regime, the transitional military government, and the elected government. We were and are still hoping that our brothers in Egypt will treat the issue realistically, as one which threatens us jointly.

We base our foreign policy on nonalignment, nongrouping, and balance. We have worked out a detailed program for our foreign policy. I give you a copy of it. I am ready to listen to specific opinions about it, provided these opinions do not call for alignment and grouping.

The second issue is that of the resources made available to the Armed Forces. Some people think that what has been done amounts to nothing.

[At this point, announcer says: Tomorrow, God willing, we shall continue broadcasting the prime minister's statement in answer to the Armed Forces memorandum. Bureau will file part three upon receipt from EAU—FBIS]

Third Part of Address

EA2802201489 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Third and last part of address by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to parliament on 27 February in reply to the Armed Forces memorandum; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The budget of the Armed Forces increased tenfold under the elected government and covered tasks, salaries, and pensions. The ideal position for the Armed Forces among the other regular forces was defined. The support provided in foreign currency as well as Sudanese currency exceeded what was provided during the May rule [of Numayri] and during the transitional period.

The third issue is the issue of peace, which was not mentioned in your memorandum. However, it is important because it completes the picture and has its role in dividing Sudanese public opinion. We inherited a situation in which there was a war and no negotiations. We opened the door of negotiations from the time of Koka Dam [declaration] until now through meetings and contacts totaling 16 in number. Through these, some positive results were achieved: moving international policies toward peace; moving regional relations, particularly between Sudan and Ethiopia, toward peace; implementing humane programs for the transport of food and medicines across the lines of fighting; preparing conciliatory ways to reconcile the rights of citizenship and religious affiliation; agreeing that the key to concord lies in the commitment to democracy and respect for diversity.

A framework for peace must be based on preliminary measures and later on the convening of a national constitutional conference. This framework developed until it reached the latest agreement between the SPLM and the Democratic Unionist Party. When we reviewed this agreement we found it was made up five articles, which we have accepted, namely, Articles A, B, C, D, and E. Article A comprised four provisions: One, Two, Three, and Four.

It was our view that Provision Two was unnecessary because there were no agreements limiting Sudan's national sovereignty. Provisions Three and Four should be implemented in such a way that a cease-fire is preceded by the lifting of the state of emergency, the arrangement of which could be left to a technical committee. If this agreement were to win the acceptance of all, then these two observations could be taken into consideration. Dialogue on the matter is continuing.

The fourth point which I wish to talk about is the economic question. Under this heading I wish to deal with four questions.

Development: This is now subject to the four-point [as heard] program of reform, salvation, and development. It is forging ahead in a commendable way with new projects and rehabilitation projects. Expenditure on this is no less than $3 billion.

Production: This has been improving since the fall of the dictatorship. This year production is plentiful in all fields, particularly agriculture.

Expenditure: Control of expenditure is a target which we have failed to achieve for two reasons—explosive demands and the requirements of fighting. The remedy for the first is the social contract and the remedy for the second is peace.

Supply: We believe that the country's internal and external resources can achieve the maintenance of supplies for the people. However, we have been defeated by three factors: channels of distribution, the black market, and smuggling. Work is going on in an attempt to guide and unify the channels of distribution and contain the black market and smuggling.

The fifth point is the question of Islam. In the Sudanese arena there are three basic tendencies. There is a tendency committed to Islam which does not think much about the rights of non-Muslims. There is a tendency which rejects Islam and wants a commitment to secularism. There is a tendency which upholds the view of

reconciling Islam and the rights of citizenship for all. This last one is the one to which the Sudanese experiment is directed. It will prevent polarization and achieve amity under democracy.

The sixth point concerns the essence of the government's present program in connection with the general mobilization and the preparation of the internal front for the duties of the present stage. The government has adopted, after a recent amendment, a program for defense, security, peace, internal mobilization, manpower, material support, moral support, political mobilization, education, information, religious guidance, legal measures, supply, housing, and communications.

It is a defined working program for which the government has set up a ministerial operations room and already embarked on implementation. Here is a copy, for your information, detailing what we have decided in these vital sectors.

The fourth point [as heard]: Since we are speaking frankly, there are military-technical issues which are connected with the performance of moral guidance, intelligence performance, the popular effort to support the fighting, and the ideal use of available capacities. These are detailed observations and I hope they will be studied and be of benefit. We deal with the Armed Forces by providing political, moral, and material support and leave the management of fighting to the commanders as a disciplined force. [Words indistinct] unless there is a breach which makes it necessary to ask questions.

The fifth point: We should not be drawn into a maelstrom of mutual recrimination where the military seeks a political scapegoat and the politicians seek a military scapegoat. What we ought to do is to conduct an objective rendering of accounts to straighten out political and military errors to achieve defense and security for the homeland. The most important matter now is what is going on at the battlefronts and the need to put an end to the negative aspects, defense, and liberation. [sentence as heard]

The sixth point: The field available for exchanging political and military views is the Defense Council. The commander in chief is a member of it. He knows what goes on in the general staff while the staff knows what goes on in the different commands. It is possible to expand the Defense Council to unite the visions concerning defense policy and prevent the different points of view from becoming divergent.

The seventh point: If we condemn plotting and distance ourselves from it and all become committed to good intentions, objectivity, and patriotism, we shall be able to discuss everything without being encumbered by embarrassment. The national interest is above us all. On the basis of this, it is my view that we should approve and commit ourselves to the following:

We should approve and commit ourselves to constitutional legitimacy and discipline and consult each other within that framework, avoiding polarization.

We should agree that the widest base for government is the best, provided this is achieved within the framework of constitutional legitimacy.

We should agree that our first duty is the defense of our homeland and make it always a priority.

The general command should study the observations which have military-technical significance with serious attention and define the methods of dealing with them. It should study the program of foreign policy and provide observations within the framework of nonalignment and balance. God grant us success.

Al-Mahdi Says Political Situation 'Serious'

EA0103122889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA)— Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has described the current political situation in the country as serious. Addressing the national symposium of the social contract, Al-Mahdi affirmed that what he had announced in the Constituent Assembly recently that the current political manoeuvre considered by some elements but a serious manipulation for politics [words indistinct] government had to prepare a specific program and then request the (?resolution) of the government. [sentence as received].

In his address, the premier called for the unification of the internal front for creating the basis of peace. For rehabilitating Sudan we must protect Sudan itself, he concluded without elaborating.

Unions Express Support for Armed Forces

EA2802115989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The unions of Sudanese workers and traders have submitted a memorandum to the prime minister. It reads:

We in the Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions, the Union of Technicians and Professionals, the Union of Civil Servants, the Union of Agricultural Workers, the Industrial Workers Union, the Union of Traders, and the Teachers Union hereby state that we are ready to shoulder our firm historic and patriotic responsibilities to the homeland. We do this on the basis of our trade union principles and our commitment to uphold the independence of the Sudanese Trade Union movement and to respond to the country's need for stability, development, and prosperity.

We have studied objectively and impartially the deteriorating political, economic, social, and security situation which is affecting the homeland and coming close to

jeopardizing freedom. The same concerns led the People's Armed Forces to submit a memorandum [words indistinct] dated 20 February 1989. We now address the following resolution to the chairman and member of the Supreme Council, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, the prime minister and chairman of the National Defense Council:

1. We stand for democracy, the only option acceptable to our people.

2. We support the memorandum submitted by the Armed Forces. We regard it as a legal action, dictated by their national dutes. It must be respected.

3. We demand that real support be given to the Armed Forces so they can carry out their combat duties and defend the homeland and its unity. We appreciate the role they are playing despite the critical conditions they are facing.

4. We call on all political forces to broaden the basis of government and to effectively involve the modern forces in the legislative and executive organs by amending the electoral laws.

5. We ask the concerned parties to sit down and decide on the form of broad-based government needed to overcome the present crisis.

6. We demand that the broad-based government implement the following program:

a. Promote peace without delay or hesitation and in all seriousness by convening a constitutional conference to bring about comprehensive peace.

b. Unify the internal front so our citizens can rally behind their broad-based government, defend its national program, and engage in the battle for production and reconstruction.

c. The government should take practical and serious steps to lighten the burden of its citizens by easing their straitened circumstances.

d. The government should pursue a balanced foreign policy that will serve our country's national interests.

e. The government should commit itself to real democracy by allowing public freedoms for citizens and guaranteeing access to national information for the press.

f. We urge the government to support and train the Armed Forces, the police, and other regular forces and regard them as the only force responsible for the homeland's defense and the security of its citizens. It should not allow the formation of armed militias.

In conclusion, we hope the prime minister will respond to this memorandum in the manner required by the present circumstances and give his reply to its demands in conformity with the requirements of this critical stage that our country is going through. We expect your reply as soon as possible. Muslims put their faith in God.

Al-Mahdi Response to Military Criticized

AB2802190389 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (AFP)—Several Sudanese opposition leaders Tuesday [28 February] rejected Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's request for an extra week to form a broad-based government, with some calling for his resignation.

Mr. Mahdi, leader of the Ummah Party, threatened to stand down Monday as a military ultimatum giving him until then to form a "government of national salvation" to end the civil war in the south of the country expired.

He called on senior officers to give him a commitment by Sunday that they would not stage a coup. The cabinet was reported to have agreed at the weekend to enlarging the government's base.

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Secretary-General Sid Ahmed al-Hussain said Tuesday that Mr. Mahdi had "brought nothing new" by way of solving Sudan's political and economic crisis. "He should have responded favourably to the demands of the Armed Forces, dissolved the government and got on with setting up a national unity cabinet," Mr. al-Hussain added.

But Mr. Mahdi's coalition partners in the National Islamic Front (NIF) said that there was no question for them of forming a new government, according to NIF Deputy Secretary-General Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha.

A Sudanese Communist Party spokesman said Mr. Mahdi "should have resigned Monday to make consultations possible among political forces, the trade unions and the Armed Forces to form a national unity cabinet".

He added that the new government should give priority to solving Sudan's economic problems and ending the civil war in the south on the basis of an accord reached in November between the DUP and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The DUP walked out of Mr. Mahdi's coalition late last year and went into opposition after he refused to endorse the agreement with the rebels.

Press reports here said Tuesday that leading professional associations and trade unions had also officially called for the dissolution of the government and for the formation of a new cabinet including all political parties and unions [words indistinct] report added that senior military officers were to meet Tuesday to (?review) the situation.

Armed Forces Insist on Implementing Memo

NC2802202889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces General Command has declared its insistence on the need to implement all the terms of the memorandum which it submitted on 20 February to State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in his capacity as chairman of the Defense Council. The memorandum demanded that a number of urgent measures be taken to reform the situation in Sudan.

In an official statement released this evening, the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command stressed "its adherence to the position outlined in the memorandum and its insistence on refusing to transfer its responsibilities and authority, as provided for by Article 15 of the Constitution, to any other political or security authority." The statement followed a day-long meeting which was attended by senior commanders and officers of the Armed Forces branches.

In its statement the General Command rejected all hints pertaining to shortcomings or lack of military discipline. It announced that immediate and sustained military assistance is the way to restore strategic and military balance.

The Sudanese Armed Forces General Command also affirmed in its statement that it supports democracy, which is the choice of the Sudanese people. It said: "It is acting in accordance with the text of Article 15 of Sudan's transitional constitution of 1985, which states that the People's Armed Forces are an integral part of the people and its task is to protect the country, defend its territorial integrity and security, and safeguard the goals and gains of the Rajab popular revolution" [April 1985 coup against Numayri].

It should be recalled that the Armed Forces memorandum had demanded that urgent military requirements be met to restore balance and enable the Armed Forces to achieve military superiority against the rebels in the south. It also demanded that a balanced foreign policy be adopted to earn the world's respect and obtain the economic and military assistance which the Armed Forces need. Furthermore, the memorandum urged cohesion of the domestic front and the expansion of the government base so the country might emerge from the current impasse and a government of national salvation be formed that would include all political parties.

The Sudanese Constituent Assembly will hold a meeting early tomorrow, Wednesday, to discuss Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement to the assembly on Monday, in which he urged the Armed Forces to stand by his side and support him. He also urged labor and trade unions not to carry out any strikes.

Taj al-Din Returns From Visit to Libya

EA2802124989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Supreme Council, and his delegation arrived in Khartoum yesterday evening from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. During his visit to Libya, he met the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the 1st September Revolution, and members of the historic leadership. He conveyed the congratulations of the Sudanese Government and people on the formation of the Arab Maghreb Union.

He also had discussions with the historic leadership on bilateral relations in various fields. He was received at Khartoum Airport by Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Supreme Council; General Fathi Ahmad Ali, Armed Forces commander in chief; and Gen Mahdi Babu Nimir, chief of general staff. Shortly after his arrival, he held a meeting with the Armed Forces commander in chief.

Says Libya To Supply Arms

EA2802125289 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA)— Libya has agreed to provide the Sudanese Armed Forces with weapons and ammunition, member of the Council of State, Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, told the daily AL-SUDANI here today. Dr Taj al-Din, who returned from Libya yesterday where he participated in the Arab Peoples General Congress, said he conferred with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who agreed to supply Sudan with weapons. Dr Taj al-Din added that military aid was donated by the Iraqi Government.

Report of Request for Egyptian Aid Denied

NC2802194189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (MENA)—In a statement issued today, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry denied reports that Sudan had requested military aid from Egypt through its ambassador in Cairo.

The denial came in response to a KUNA report citing the Lebanese AL-SAFIR newspaper on the matter. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement asserted that the report in question is groundless.

Tunisia

'Terrorism' at Sousse University 'Serious Matter'

LD2802145389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Tunisian AL-HURIYAH published an article in its column "Dotting the I's" by Mohamed Belaji entitled: "The Two Crimes of Violence and Silence Toward Their Perpetrators." What was directed at some students at Sousse University campus during the past

few days is a dangrous matter. It does not require attitudes of hypocrisy, silence, or hushing up—not because some students who subscribe to extremists tendencies used violence against their colleages from the same faculty because they disagree with them and belong to another political group different from theirs—which is in itself a serious matter.

But what is more serious is that we turn a blind eye on these small and isolated mistakes today. Tomorrow we may find ourselves facing sins verging on danger.

Those who prefer to hush up matters, like those who, these days, do not see any relation between the democratic rights of the individual and the community and what happened at the university because they are not concerned with this matter at the moment. They bear a great historical responsibility for any violence, God forbid, because keeping quiet and appeasing permits greater aims. The new aim of some quarters who pursue the path of terrorism at the university may be to undermine the new atmosphere which these days has existed inside and outside the university since the changes in November.

Terrorism, irrespective of its source and extent, contradicts the university's message. The university's role is to teach generations how to respect dialogue, resort to logic, uphold the sanctity of freedom of opinion, and use innovation and thought for aims far from the characteristics of terrorism.

These are among the main reasons which brought about the independence of the university and made it necessary to consider it a sacred sanctity which protects thought, learning, and freedom of choice. If any kind of terrorism threatens the independence of the university, like the terrorism witnessed recently, it is everyone's duty to face up to this terrorism immediately, clearly, and publicly.

The new gains secured by the institutions of higher education in our country, such as the freedom of organization, university activity, permission to set up organs for these matters, and the care granted to the whole youth in the new Tunisia, in a way they did not have in the past, should have been directed toward consolidating dialogue, acting upon it, and guaranteeing the collective participation of the new educated generations in drawing up the new society.

The new domains of free action should not become accustomed to imposing terrorism and taking liberty with the money of the people to destroy some equipment and institutions. Remaining silent vis-a-vis violence is no less criminal than violence itself.

Ruling Party To Stand Alone in Elections
LD2802235889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Constitutional Democratic Rally [CDR] Politburo this morning held a meeting in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage under the chairmanship of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. After the meeting the Politburo issued the following communique:

After examining the preparations under way for the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections, the Politburo records with pride the popular and national consensus accorded to the candidacy of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, head of state and chairman of the CDR, for president of the Republic.

Concerning the forthcoming legislative elections, the Rally Politburo decided to run in the elections with lists independent from the other parties. This decision was made based on the Central Committee's decision at the 10-11 February 1989 meeting which expressed the Rally's and all its militants' intention to go through these elections with the spirit of fair, democratic competition, embodying the values of citizenship and noble political morale.

The decision was also made in response to the result of the party militants' extensive grass roots consultation, which affirmed that they are anxious to enter the elections on the basis of free and fair competition.

The Politburo made the decision with the Central Committee's mandate. The Rally election lists will be on red bulletins symbolizing the sacrifices of the loyal martyrs and the Rally's faithful militants throughout the generations. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Manama on Visit

JN2702093689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Manama from Baghdad at noon today on a visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Delivers Message to Amir

JN2702110489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in his capacity as the present chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, handed the message to the amir today in his capacity as the current chairman of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council].

In a statement after the meeting, 'Aziz said that the message expresses the desire of the ACC states—Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the YAR—to establish strong relations of cooperation with their brothers in the GCC states. 'Aziz added that his highness the amir of Bahrain blessed the launching of the ACC and expressed the GCC states' eagerness to cooperate with the ACC. The amir also affirmed that this fortunate step will reinforce the Arab action in the service of the Arab nation's objectives and hopes.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister said in his statement that he conveyed another verbal message to his highness the amir from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on reinforcing the existing strong relations between the two sisterly countries, the current developments in the Arabian Gulf, and issues of common interest. He noted that he reviewed with the amir of Bahrain and the prime minister a number of political issues that concern the two countries and regional states, particularly the developments in the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

'Aziz added that Iraq and the Cooperation Council states want to bring about a just, permanent, and lasting peace based on strong and solid foundations in the interest of the wellbeing, prosperity, and stability of the Arabian Gulf region.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi, Iraq's ambassador to Bahrain.

Departs for Rabat 27 Feb

JN2702150289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation left Manama today for Rabat after a short visit to Bahrain.

Tariq 'Aziz had delivered a written message to His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the establishment of the ACC, developments in both the Gulf and Arab issues, othe issues of mutual interest, and bilateral relations.

WAKH has learned that the Iraqi foreign minister will deliver a written message to Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II in Rabat dealing with the establishment of the ACC in his capacity as head of the current session of the Arab Maghreb Union. He will stop in Cairo after his visit to Morocco.

PDRY

Diplomatic Relations Established With Morocco

EA2102092889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] The PDRY and the Kingdom of Morocco have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in response to the wish of both governments and fraternal peoples.

A statement was issued on the subject saying the following: On the basis of ties of language, religion, and common history between the fraternal peoples of Democratic Yemen and the Kingdom of Morocco, and on the basis of the wish of the governments of the two countries to strengthen those links between their peoples, it has been agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. This is in response to the common wish of both governments and fraternal peoples to create new horizons by establishing cooperation in various fields in the interests of the two countries.

The Governments of Democratic Yemen and the Kingdom of Morocco stress their intention to develop and strengthen [words indistinct] announce that they will intensify efforts to support joint Arab action and to contribute to the efforts being made to strengthen security, peace, and cooperation at the international level.

Qatar

Amir Receives Visiting UK Parliamentarians

JN2102213689 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, Feb 21 (GNA)—H.H. The Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received here this morning the visiting British parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Terry Dicks.

The Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani attended the audience.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY said that discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and means of enhancing ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

A set of other regional and international issues of mutual concern were also discussed.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to Saddam Husayn

LD2502220189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Iraqi Republic. The message concerns bilateral relations and the means for their development in various fields.

It was delivered by Tirad al-Hirithi, the Saudi ambassador to Baghdad, when he was received today by the Iraqi president at his headquarters in Basra. The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Message From Mubarak

JN2802115589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, has received a message from His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of fraternal Egypt. The message concerns the Egyptian president's meetings and contacts in Tokyo with a number of world leaders and which centered on Arab issues and peace efforts in the Middle East. The message is part of continuous consultations and coordination between the two leaders in the interest of the Arab nation.

The message was conveyed by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and chief of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, during a meeting with his highness the president that took place this morning at the Presidential Office.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the President's Office, and Ahmad Qadri 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian ambassador to the UAE.

Paper Regrets Soviet 'Retreat' on Peace Plan

JN2502074089 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 25 Feb (WAM)—In today's editorial, AL-KHALIJ expresses surprise at the Soviet retreat on the plan for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict announced by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Damascus last Sunday.

AL-KHALIJ describes the retreat as suspicious and says: This will lead any observer to believe that Moscow's task as a mediator is to bring the Arab position closer to the American-Israeli position.

AL-KHALIJ says: Between Sunday in Damascus and Thursday in Cairo, Shevardnadze went back on his plan and abandoned its most important parts. This shows, the paper adds, a link between this and his talks with the concerned parties.

AL-KHALIJ adds: The only announced objection to the Soviet plan is the Israeli position articulated by Moshe Arens after the two negotiation sessions in Cairo—a position supported by the United States as indicated by the statements by George Bush and his Secretary of State Baker in connection with Shevardnadze's tour.

AL-KHALIJ believes that this Soviet retreat is a submission to American-Israeli intransigence and an accommodation to Washington's and Tel Aviv's proposals on the settlement—proposals centered on the Camp David accords.

Under the headline "Moscow—Where to?" AL-KHALIJ affirms that Shevardnadze relinquished a lot. The Al-Shariqah-based paper asks: When the international preparatory committee is replaced by direct bilateral negotiations between the concerned parties, what will be left for the international conference? Will the conference not then become an umbrella, exactly as America defined its view more than 2 years ago?

Concluding, AL-KHALIJ expresses its regret over the swift Soviet retreat.

U.S. Call To End PLO Dialogue Criticized

JN2602185489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Feb 89 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Contacts and meetings to achieve a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict are in full progress. Many forces from East and West are taking part in them. Moscow has taken part by sending its foreign minister to the region on an extraordinary tour. The EC is also participating in the efforts with extensive contacts.

At this particular time, the U.S. House of Representatives has issued a strange call that conflicts with these peace efforts: It has called for ending the dialogue with the PLO if it does not pay compensation to Americans who have been injured in terrorist operations since 1969.

It is a strange call that completely contradicts current circumstances because neither the U.S. House of Representatives nor any other U.S. agency can prove that the PLO was responsible for what the House describes as terrorist operations. The reverse is true, because the PLO made efforts to save Americans who were exposed to danger, especially in Lebanon. Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat referred to this fact many times, and announced that he had received a thank-you message from Washington for his efforts.

Moreover, the PLO was the first to make efforts to release U.S. citizens held hostage in Tehran. How can these facts correspond to allegations that the PLO is responsible for killing or wounding this American here or that American there?

And what is behind this "terrorism" the U.S. representatives are talking about? They seem to be talking about it on Israel's behalf, even though the PLO has condemned terrorism and pledged to renounce it. What more does the United States want from the PLO?

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Discusses ACC Policy, Arab Ties

JN2502165089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Feb 89 pp 14-15

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM's 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id in Sanaa—date not given]

[Text] Al-Masa'id: Your Excellency the President, we would like you to clarify the meaning of the "open-door approach" which you declared when the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] was established.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: We, in fact, regard the ACC as an advanced step on the path of joint Arab action. We have benefitted from our Arab nation's past experiences, including the GCC experience. Thus we made it clear that the ACC will not be confined to the countries that founded it and that it is open to all Arab countries who want to join it, whether or not they are joining the GCC or the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU].

The word "open" means the ACC is open to all fraternal countries, without exception. Moreover, its name points to its function. The ACC is a comprehensive Arab Cooperation Council for all Arab countries.

Al-Masa'id: However, there are some states you did not introduce into the ACC such as South Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, and other states.

The president: Four states founded the ACC, but the door is open to brothers whether they are in the southern part of the homeland, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, or any other Arab country.

Al-Masa'id: Was this grouping King Husayn's idea or that of all the founding states' leaders?

The president: Leaders of the four states held consultations on creating an Arab grouping in the form that was announced. It was everyone's idea. The ACC leaders found that there is large room for cooperation and integration among the four states, hence, the idea of establishing the ACC.

Al-Masa'id: The Arab League's charter mentions the idea of a common Arab market as well as economic unity and the achievement of a comprehensive unity, so why these new groupings?

The president: We regard the ACC's establishment as an enhancement of the Arab League. The ACC, along with other Arab regional groupings—whether the AMU or GCC—is a tributary which will bolster the Arab League's role. Moreover, the ACC is within the Arab League's framework and adheres to its charter and to the Collective Arab Defense Pact. The ACC is also committed to all that enhances the Arab League's role in serving the Arab nation's causes.

Al-Masa'id: Let us suppose that the southern part of Yemen wishes to be united with the northern part but it has a certain view or reservations over the issue of Arab unity or the Arab grouping. How can this be tackled?

The president: For us, Yemeni unity is not a regional unity but reunification of the same homeland and the same people. We regard this unity as foremost among any unionist action, whether bilateral, quadrilateral, five-way, six-way, or any other way. Furthermore, Yemeni unity is a basic pillar in reunifying the Arab nation.

Al-Masa'id: What is the state of unity talks with the PDRY?

The president: The dialogue between the two sides is ongoing and there is a good deal of understanding. We have come a long way in unionist action, especially since the signing of the Ramadan agreement in Sanaa last year when agreement was reached on travel between the north and south by identity cards. Furthermore, there are joint ventures and there is an understanding with our brothers in the south on unifying the homeland.

Our brothers in the south, however, would rather see the process phased in. We do not disagree with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland. We in the north, though, do not see any reason why we should go slow on unionist action, since there does not seem to be a problem there. The Yemeni masses north and south

yearn for the attainment of Yemeni unity. Their honest intuition tells them that therein lies their glory, dignity, progress and recovery of their glorious civilized past.

Al-Masa'id: Back now to the ACC. Do you think the grouping assures equality among its members, especially given that some of them are heavily in debt? More specifically, do you see equality between the three countries on the one hand and the YAR on the other, as the YAR is now taking off toward new, wide horizons of economic development? Is there not the fear that the YAR might become a market for labor and goods from the other members of the ACC?

The president: We do not harbor such fears, as there are checks and balances on complementarity among the four states as well as regarding the marketing of certain surplus goods. In any case, each of the four countries stands to gain from the cooperation as there are agreed controls.

Al-Masa'id: Have you achieved agricultural self-sufficiency yet?

The president: We have achieved self-sufficiency in some vegetables and fruits and we aspire to attain it in cereals.

Al-Masa'id: Is it a coincidence that the ACC and the Maghreb Union agreement were proclaimed virtually simultaneously, or was the timing designed?

The president: It was sheer coincidence. We congratulated our brothers in the Maghreb. Yesterday we had a joint meeting of the Advisory Council, the cabinet, and the general committee [of the General People's Congress] which expressed support for the Arab Maghreb Union. We bless any Arab grouping in the context of furthering Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Al-Masa'id: Has the Advisory Council approved the agreement formula?

The president: The expanded meeting of the Advisory Council and the cabinet has approved the agreement and referred it to the Consultative Council to complete constitutional procedures.

Al-Masa'id: Will it be possible to travel among these four countries by using identity cards?

The president: This may come later as a subsequent step, God willing.

Al-Masa'id: We now move to the Arab League. Your Excellency the President, do you not believe that the establishment of groupings will affect the Arab League's role?

The president: From our viewpoint in the ACC, this grouping was only formed to bolster the Arab League's role in a manner that will enable it to play its role in serving the cause of our Arab nation and to make it able to convene its conferences regularly and periodically.

It became imperative to hold the Arab summit conferences on their dates regularly in order to discuss important issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian question, which is preoccupying the world, and also the question of the Lebanese Arab people to help them resolve their crisis and preserve the unity and Arab character of Lebanon.

Al-Masa'id: The six-member [Arab League] committee is trying to achieve this?

The president: The six-member committee has a role to play. The brothers in Kuwait are also exerting good efforts in this regard. If the Arab summit is conveyed, we will strengthen these efforts. We must not leave an Arab country to be torn apart while the Arab world stands idle and unable to help it escape its dilemma and without convening an Arab summit to resolve its problem. If the Arabs stand by idly watching Lebanon being torn apart, then its tragedy may occur again in any Arab country.

Al-Masa'id: Have there been any contacts with Syria regarding its joining the ACC?

The president: We have consulted Syria and contacts are under way on this subject.

Al-Masa'id: Have they included a solution to the Syrian dispute with Iraq?

The president: Efforts are being exerted to resolve differences between Syria and Iraq. His Majesty King Husayn, and we on our part, are making efforts to resolve the Iraqi-Syrian dispute. We are optimistic about resolving this dispute, as it became necessary to resolve all differences among brothers.

Al-Masa'id: How do you view the stand of the GCC countries toward the ACC?

The president: The brothers in the GCC have blessed this step, because the aim of the ACC is to bolster the role of joint Arab action and any joint Arab cooperation or grouping will benefit the Arab nation.

Al-Masa'id: Does the ACC agreement obligate its member countries to intervene militarily in support of each other, as the YAR did with Iraq?

The president: We in the YAR are bound by the Arab Joint Defense Pact to come to the aid of any Arab country whose security comes under outside threat. We will remain committed to this obligation.

Al-Masa'id: Are there efforts to reconcile the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat and Syria?

The president: No one has requested our help toward that end. If either Syria or the PLO does so, we will not delay.

Al-Masa'id: Israel bets on putting down the intifadah [uprising]. What do you think?

The president: The intifadah will not be quelled, and Israel is miscalculating if it thinks that the overwhelming intifadah in the occupied Arab land can be quashed. The Palestinian Arab people are too vigilant and are only too aware of the importance of keeping the intifadah going and escalating their revolution. They are conscious of the positive interntional stand on the Palestinian cause.

Al-Masa'id: But Arab leaders are standing on the sidelines as specatators offering no meaningful support. Why the absence of a unified Arab stand in extending support to the intifadah?

The president: Such an Arab stand can be forged at an Arab summit. For our part, we think that whatever the brother Palestinians decide must be backed by the Arabs. It is the Palestinian people who are suffering, and it would be best if we adopted the Palestinian position all the time. We should not impose more on the Palestinians than they can take.

Al-Masa'id: How do you view the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan?

The president: We see it as a step enhancing the prospects of world peace. We hope the Afghan people will be left to choose their own leaders and safeguard their unity. We want to see outside interference halted.

Al-Masa'id: How do you react to the latest U.S. veto of an anti-Israel resolution at the UN Security Council?

The president: As far as Washington is concerned, Israel counts as an American state. Israel is a colonial entity that was planted in the midst of the Arab homeland. Were it not for American support, Israel would not survive.

Al-Masa'id: How do you think the Arabs can bring about a shift in the American position?

The president: At an Arab summit Arabs may forge a common position and clear perceptions and a united position to curb Washington's absolute bias toward Israel.

Al-Masa'id: Does the third 5-year plan take the oil resources into consideration?

The president: Yes.

Al-Masa'id: Have you started production in a big way? Can you give figures?

The president: We produce about 197,000 barrels of oil per day and we export it. We are intending to increase production as we develop our oil fields.

Al-Masa'id: What about the Yemeni-Kuwaiti ties?

The president: As we have declared on many occasions, the Yemeni-Kuwaiti ties are a model to be copied in inter-Arab relations. Fraternal Kuwait stood by Yemen from the beginning of the revolution and extended assistance and support to the Yemeni brothers. We highly appreciate the fact that this Kuwaiti aid was not conditional.

Kuwait is unique among the Arab states because it has never interfered in the internal affairs of any country either in the past or in the present. This is one of the elements of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti ties of which we are proud. It is one of Kuwait's values not to interfere in the affairs of others.

Al-Masa'id: What about ties with the GCC states?

The president: Our ties with the GCC states are at their best. We have good relations with all of them. Our ties with the UAE are similar to our ties with Kuwait because it behaves like Kuwait in terms of its aid to its Arab brothers. The UAE extended unconditional assistance to the YAR development plans without asking any favors.

[Al-Masa'id] Here President Salih answered a question on Yemeni-Saudi ties and said that they are good and that the border issue is just like any other issue of a similar nature.

The president said: Yemeni-Saudi ties are excellent and are based on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. Yemeni-Saudi relations are always special and distinctive.

As for the Yemeni-Saudi border issue, this is just like all other border issues between sisterly countries. It is not a major issue. The border issues between us and our Saudi brothers are just like issues between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, between Iraq and Kuwait, between Saudi Arabia and the southern part of the homeland [PDRY], between the UAE and Oman, between Oman and the southern part of the homeland, between Qatar and Bahrain, between Algeria and Morocco, between Egypt and Sudan, between Libya and Algeria.

In short, like all issues between sisterly, neighboring countries. We deal with all issues in a brotherly way through direct contacts with our Saudi brothers, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and we resolve them in a cordial, brotherly atmosphere.

Dialogue is the basis of solutions for all border issues between sisterly countries.

Al-Masa'id: Are there any new proposals on this subject?

The president: We believe that the question of borders needs time because it cannot be resolved in 24 hours, 1 day, 1 month, 2 months, or a year. It takes time and we have more major and important issues that concern the whole Arab nation, such as the Palestinian Arab question and issues related to the economy, education, and development.

I believe that the main issue in the Arab world is not the issue of borders. The subject of borders among Arab states is not supposed to be presented as a problem because we are all sons of a single Arab nation and borders between us have no importance and all obstacles created by colonialism must be removed.

Al-Masa'id: However, differences over borders are due to the presence of joint oil findings near borders and this can cause disputes.

The president: As I said before, we are basically sons of a single family, and any advantage must be for everyone. If there is wealth on borders between two Arab countries, it should be utilized for the benefit of all.

We have applied this between us and the southern part of our homeland. We discovered oil on the border between the two parts of the Yemen, and we agreed with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland to establish joint projects and joint investments. This will prevent any increase in differences or the use of force.

We in the Arab world are supposed to entrench the principle of refraining from the use of force by any country against an Arab country and from intervening in its internal affairs. We must entrench this as a principle in inter-Arab relations.

Al-Masa'id: Thank you, brother President.

The president: You are always very welcome in your country and amid your brothers.

Jordanian Envoy Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2602180889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country. During the visit, he will convey a message to brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother His Majesty King Husayn, Jordanian monarch.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, brother Abu 'Awdah explained that the message deals with Arab affairs that are among the concerns of the Arab Cooperation Council. [passage omitted]

Conveys Message, Departs

JN2702130889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Sanaa today following a brief visit to our country, during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, King Husayn ibn Talal. The message dealt with a number of developments and issues of interest to the two fraternal countries within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council.

In a predeparture statement to SABA', brother Abu 'Awdah stated that he carries a reply from the brother leader and president, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to his brother, King Husayn ibn Talal. [passage omitted]

Leaders Said Discussing Presidential Elections

JN0103065889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad television has announced that the Iraqi leadership is currently discussing the holding of presidential elections by public ballot based on a constitutional revision. Citing a presidential statement, Baghdad television said that after revision, the new constitution will be submitted to a referendum of the people.

INA Editor Denies Amnesty International Claims

JN0103102889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has categorically denied the cheap allegations in an Amnesty International report claiming that Iraqi children are brutally mistreated for political reasons.

In a commentary today, Wednesday, the INA editor said that Iraq, which emerged triumphant from the war that was planned by imperialists and Zionists, would never resort to arresting or torturing children the way the Zionist enemy does against Arab children in the occupied territories.

He said that Iraq takes care of all its social classes and ethnic minorities and added that Iraq is certain that its sons, who have fought for 8 years in defense of their homeland, principles, and revolution, are worthy of enjoying all human rights recognized by international charters, divine laws, and the Constitution.

The INA editor continued that the propaganda campaign against Iraq, to which Amnesty International has regrettably resorted, and which was repeated by some biased radio stations, attempts to undermine Iraq's victory and its distinguished international reputation, which is based on 5,000 years of civilization. It is also meant to distort the Iraqi people's humanitarian image as they continue the process of serious and responsible reconstruction.

The editor noted that the new propaganda campaign comes in the wake of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council among Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic to establish cooperation among the Arab states leading to Arab unity and safeguarding pan-Arab security.

The INA editor said that these lies, fabricated by Iraq's enemies, come at a time when Iraq is making great efforts, through continuous meetings of the political leaders, to revise the country's Constitution; to establish a multi-party system; and to provide the maximum degree of press freedom based on mutual confidence between the leadership, led by President Saddam Husayn, and the Iraqi people.

In conclusion, the INA editor stressed that Iraq's children, whom Amnesty International claims are persecuted, enjoy free education—through all school levels—health care, and social security. The organization would have done better to comment on the violation of human rights and persecution of children in those states that claim to defend human rights while their citizens eat what they find in garbage cans.

Minister Discusses 1989 Foreign Trade Plan

JN2702204789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated that this year's foreign trade plan focuses on requirements for new projects in the industrial sector.

In a Baghdad television interview screened this evening, he said the plan gave priority to securing basic food commodities and building-industry requirements in addition to providing what was needed by the central markets. He added that allocations in this year's foreign trade plan are 22 percent higher than in 1988. Of these allocations, the social sector's share is 35 percent, the agricultural sector's share is 25 percent, and the private sector's share 26 percent.

The trade minister said that allocations of wheat, rice, tea, sugar, vegetables, all types of milk, fats, and washing powders have increased by 16 percent over last year. He said food commodities and grains in particular receive state subsidies totaling approximately 233 million dinars. This sum is almost twice the overall foreign trade plan of 1968, whose allocations did not exceed 150 [figure as received] million dinars. He asserted that the prices of these commodities are fixed and cannot be increased. He also explained that the basic aim of the foreign trade plan is to avoid scarcity of industrial and agricultural commodities.

Video of Kidnapped Soldier Said Delivered to UN

NC0103090189 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Jerusalem, March 1 (AFP)—A video cassette of an Israeli soldier who disappeared two weeks ago has been delivered to the United Nations, an anonymous caller told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Wednesday.

The caller said that his organization had "delivered to the U.N. in Israel" a videocassette showing the soldier, 25-year-old paratrooper Avi Sasportas.

The caller, speaking Hebrew with a heavy Arabic accent, also said his group had informed the Egyptian Embassy in Israel on Wednesday of its demands, which would be passed on to Israeli authorities.

A caller claiming to speak for the Arab Palestinian Army on Tuesday demanded the release of 1,500 Palestinian detainees in exchange for the soldier.

The disappearance of Mr. Sasportas has triggered on outpouring of national concern in Israel, with tens of thousands of soldiers, policemen and volunteers taking part in vast search operations in southern Israel.

U.N. officials said they had not received a videocassette at their headquarters in Jerusalem, but said they would alert the various U.N. agencies operating in the occupied territories to search for such an item.

An Egyptian Embassy official said the ambassador, Muhammad Basyuni, was "very busy at the moment and cannot be reached."

The caller, asked about the condition of the soldier, said he was suffering from the flu.

"He had a fever of about 40 but now he's better and we gave him oranges," the caller said.

UN, Egyptian Embassy on Report

TA0103151889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Neither the UN office in Jerusalem, nor the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, has thus far received any information from the alleged kidnappers of [IDF] soldier Avi Sasportas. A man claiming to be one of the the kidnappers made another phone call to AFP today. He said that he had sent a videocassette to the UN representative and a list of conditions to the Egyptian Embassy in Israel.

Demands Made for Release

TA0103172689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Another anonymous phone call was made today in connection with the missing soldier, Avi Sasportas. An unidentified person who described himself as a member of the Arab Palestinian Army telephoned Fayiz Abu Rahmah, the chairman of the Gaza Strip Bar Association. He said that his organization is demanding the release of all the Palestinian detainees held in jail since the beginning of the uprising, as well as the discharge of 300 other Palestinians who were apprehended before the uprising.

This is the condition for the release of Sasportas. He added that he gave two UN delegates a videocassette showing the kidnapped soldier. The caller also said that the Arab Palestinian Army is demanding that the Israelis disseminate the footage on the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], which he claimed was carried out by what he termed Israeli commandos. He further demanded remuneration for the families of Palestinians from the territories killed by the Israeli army, and for houses that have been demolished.

Abu Rahmah told AFP that the caller demanded that he, together with the ambassadors of France and Egypt, serve as intermediary.

Likud Expands Power Base in Local Elections

TA0103062189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The Likud has achieved a series of successes in the municipal elections and has expanded its power base on the local level around the country. Likud officials are calling it a landslide. Within Labor, the calls for a postmortem have already begun.

In the major cities, Teddy Kollek and Shlomo Lahat remain the mayors of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv respectively, but each with less power on his city council. Confusion is the word in Haifa. Summing up the morning after, reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Teddy Kollek remains, as expected, the mayor of Jerusalem, but his One Jerusalem Party achieved only 12, at most 13, of the 31 seats on the city council and Kollek will have to form a coalition. He was clearly hurt by the effective Arab boycott in East Jerusalem.

Reelected Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat will also have to deal with a loss of power on his city council. But in Haifa, incumbent Arye Gur'el is still not sure that he will even continue as mayor. As of a short while ago, only 60 percent of the vote had been counted amid reports of irregular practices in the counting of ballots. The Likud is calling for a recount, and the Shinuy Party wants another vote.

The final turnout was around 50 percent, but much higher in the Israeli Arab and Haredi [Jewish ultraorthodox] sectors. [passage omitted]

This morning the Likud has gained control in the following cities: Beersheba, Ashdod, Petah Tiqva, Ramat Gan, Qiryat Yam, and in Tiberias they were literally dancing in the streets as Yosi Peretz took over from the National Religious Party's Yig'al Bibi. In Bet She'an, the Likud's Shlomo Ben-Lulu was a winner over Jackie Levi, the son of Minister David Levi, who ran on an independent list.

The orthodox increased their power base in Jerusalem, but not to the extent expected by some. In Petah Tiqva, a deal with the Likud will give the ultraorthodox substantial power.

In the Israeli Arab sector, the big winner was the Islamic Movement, whose candidates took the local council head positions in the city of Umm al-Fahm and the village of Kafr Qasim.

There will be another election in a number of locations because of inconclusive results. Those affected include Zefat, Nahariyya, Hadera, Ramat Hasharon, and Rehovot, among other localities as well.

But while Likud officials were heralding their success, within Labor the postmortem has begun. The leader is Minister Moshe Shahal, who says the proper conclusions must be drawn. The party leadership, he says, should closely examine why the party now finds itself where it does. [end recording]

Likud, which fought the campaign on national as much as local issues, is jubilant. Last night Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, in an interview with Le'a Zinder, called it a landslide:

[Begin recording] [Arens] Based on the results as we know them today, the Likud won the mayoralty race in Petah Tiqva, Ramat Gan, Beersheba—I am now talking about the largest cities in Israel—and also in Ashdod. We have a very close race in Haifa. And, if these turn out to be the final results, this is a very great success, I would say a landslide, for the Likud in these municipal elections. The reasons are that, first of all, we have good candidates, and I guess we have much better candidates than the Labor Party has. Secondly, we invested considerable efforts in these elections. We have been working in preparation for them for more than a year, and our work has paid off.

[Zinder] Moshe Arens does tend to see a connection between national politics and the local elections.

[Arens] Well, there is no question that the vast majority of candidates in these elections are rather candidates of the Likud or candidates of the Labor Party. Many of the voters take that into consideration when they cast their votes. Moreover, the candidates that the Likud ran, who have been so successful in this election today, are candidates who identify themselves with the Likud's political positions. [end recording]

Reporters at Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv describe the mood there as subdued as the results came in. Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, interviewed by Alan Ben-'Ami, said earlier this morning that it was too early to assess the results on the local level. But on the national level, he said, it was the Likud who should be thinking again:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Would it be a political or an ideological election, the Likud should be very much disappointed, for example, with the results in Jerusalem, where they lost heavily both on the personal account and on a political account. On the other hand, their treatment in Tel Aviv is not so great, because the candidate of the Likud is a real dove. So, I mean, this is a personal victory.

Generally, I would be very careful to analyze at this moment the real meaning of these elections from a political standpoint.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you think this is, as someone said, a local election dealing with local issues, or is there some reflection of a loss from the national point of view, as Mr Shamir claims it?

[Peres] I have said, nationally you can hardly find a pattern. Obviously though, that is a very important element in local elections. How much was local and how much was political I can hardly tell.

[Ben-'Ami] Are there any lessons that can be learned for national elections, for the mood of the country?

[Peres] Every politician must be a permanent student, and we have to learn from every event lessons. But, as I have said, it's a little bit too early to draw conclusions.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see any effect at all on relations within the government, Likud-Labor?

[Peres] As I have said, it's too early to judge. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Knesset Amends Election Law

TA0103123489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] In a final hearing today, the Knesset passed the amendment to the local councils law. Accordingly, whoever has committed a security offense cannot be elected within 6 years of his release from prison.

Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Matza, head of the Knesset Interior Affairs Committee, said that this law applies to those elected yesterday. Only the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction objected to the amendment.

Netanyahu Says U.S. 'Sobering Up' on PLO

TA2802185289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The U.S. State Department announced that it holds the PLO responsible for terror acts recently perpetrated by Palestinian organizations in Lebanon. Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu said that this is a sign that the United States is sobering up.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] They are discovering that the PLO has not really disconnected itself from terrorist activity. On the contrary, it tries to justify it. The organization simply commits terror acts, then ignores the fact that it has just perpetrated these activities, and finally brazenly admits that it has indeed instigated these actions. In the current state of affairs, it is the PLO that is testing the United States, instead of the other way around. [end recording] [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Protests Attacks

JN0103080689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] It has been announced in Washington that U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau met with PLO representative Hakam Bal'awi in Tunis yesterday and informed him of the U.S. objection to the terrorist operations being carried out by Palestinian organizations against Israeli targets.

The U.S. State Department spokesman said that the meeting took place at the request of Bal'awi and that Pelletreau explained to the PLO representative that launching attacks against Israeli military or civilian targets inside or outside Israel conflicts with the peaceful goals of the dialogue that the United States has recently started with the PLO.

Waldegrave: PLO 'Legitimate Partner' for Talks

TA2802205989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Britain's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave stated upon arrival in Israel this evening that there has been an essential change in the Palestinians position, which is evident in Yasir 'Arafat's declarations. Talking with our correspondent Dan Eshel, Minister Waldegrave said that Britain believes the PLO's statements in Geneva have made the organization a legitimate partner for a dialogue with Israel. Britain's minister of state will meet Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, and Palestinian leaders from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Meets With Netanyahu

TA0103113989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Britain's Minister of State William Waldegrave, who is currently on a visit to Israel, has said that his government is not asking Israel to take any step that might—according to its leaders' opinion—pose a threat to its security. According to him, however, disagreement still exists between him and Israeli leaders on whether there has indeed been a change in the PLO stand.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Waldegrave started his official round of talks this morning in a meeting with his counterpart, Binyamin Netanyahu. They mainly discussed Israel's security problems, reaching a large degree of understanding on the matter. Waldegrave recently conferred with Yasir 'Arafat.

Arens Discusses Soviet Role in Peace Talks

TA2502110789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dani Vessely on 24 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Vessely] Is there anything new in the points you raised in the meetings with President Mubarak and later with the Soviet foreign minister?

[Arens] I do not think I surprised them with the points I presented. The positions of the State of Israel are well-known. I hear people say that points can be made in a telegram; why go to Cairo and meet with these leaders? In theory, one can definitely question diplomatic activity in general in these media days; a videocassette can be sent and the interlocutor can watch me speak on the screen. Still, we believe that personal contacts and spontaneous verbal exchanges are the way to clarify matters and try to persuade.

I think there are two goals to these talks, in the following order: first, to lead to understanding; second, to lead to agreement, if possible. Understanding means that the other party understands why our positions are the way they are: what is behind them, what our fears, aspirations, and rationale are. This works in the other direction too—that we, too, understand our interlocutors. In this case, in presenting a certain Soviet position, Shevardnadze wanted us to understand why the Soviets abide by this and no other position.

I think that this understanding is a basis for agreement, that one can be reached, that without this basis it is impossible to reach an agreement. It is possible that as a result of listening to me and discussing matters Shevardnadze can return to Moscow with a better understanding of Israel's condition. I am actually sure of this. I also told him that without visiting Israel it will be very difficult for him to understand us.

[Vessely] What was his response to this?

[Arens] I assume he or another Soviet foreign minister will finally come. I do not know how long this will take. After all, can anybody understand Israel and the Israelis without being here, without meeting Israelis?

[Vessely] Did you invite him to visit us?

[Arens] When we met in Paris, I told him I had heard of his intention to visit the Middle East and that we would be glad if his tour included Israel as well. It seems that the constraints in which the Soviets find themselves—or at least, the constraints as they perceive them—are such as to make them think it is too late to do so. I assume they fear the reaction in the Arab world, for no reason, in my opinion. I also told Shevardnadze as follows: I am surprised that a superpower such as the Soviet Union is prepared to accept dictates. His response was: No, under no circumstances, we do not accept dictates. I seized that opportunity to tell him that we are a very small country indeed, but that we too do not accept dictates.

Still, when Shevardnadze lectured us and told us how important it is to achieve peace, why a big effort should be made in this direction, I told him: Come to Israel and you will see there is nobody more desirous of peace than the State of Israel; come to Israel and see that there is no family without victims as a result of the absence of peace—then you will understand how much people in Israel yearn for peace. So with all due respect for the wish of the USSR and other countries to reach peace in the region, we want this more than anybody else.

[Vessely] Is the resumption of Soviet-Israeli relations a basis for Soviet involvement in the attempt to promote the peace process here?

[Arens] I think it will be very difficult for the USSR to play any role in the political process in the Middle East without having normal diplomatic relations with the State of Israel.

[Vessely] Is that in the offing?

[Arens] I do not know. I think that a decision in principle on this exists there. I believe—this is my interpretation—that their decision to sever relations was a mistake. Today they are looking for the circumstances ... [changes thought] I assume that vis-a-vis the Arab world they would like to present the resumption of relations as something for which they were paid a price that would seem appropriate. Our position, however, is that we are not prepared for any conditions on the issue of diplomatic relations. We believe in the universality of diplomatic relations. They do not depend on the degree of agreement on policies between countries.

[Vessely] In other words, to resume relations, the price should not be a change in Israel's positions?

[Arens] In my opinion, it is not only that no price should be paid, but also that we are totally unprepared to pay any price at all. We are surely interested in diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union but it seems to me that the Soviet Union is no less interested in the resumption of relations, perhaps even more so.

[Vessely] At the time, one of the claims raised against the Camp David accords, perhaps one of the reasons they did not turn into an overall settlement in the Middle East, was that they were in fact a U.S. peace in which the USSR was not involved. This may only emphasize Israel's interest in having the USSR involved in the political process, especially now.

[Arens] First, I do not accept this assumption. If no progress was made after the signing of the treaty with Egypt, it was because the rest of the Arab countries did not want this, severing relations and boycotting Egypt at the time...

[Vessely, interrupting] The Soviet Union, too, did not want this.

[Arens] Yes, the Soviet Union too did not want this. Still, in my opinion, the lack of progress had nothing to do with the USSR. I do not think that the fact that Jordan, for example, did not join the Camp David peace process had anything to do with the USSR. Jordan, in many respects, is the most important partner in the area after Egypt.

The Soviet Union surely has a relative advantage in a certain sphere. The USSR has a special relationship with Syria, for instance, and could have made some contribution. Without open relations with us, however, without the ability to exchange views totally freely and regularly, it will be difficult for it to play any role. [passage omitted]

Rapprochement With USSR Seen Worrying U.S.

TA2202151189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 89 p 9

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Nothing Will Move Without Them"]

[Text] This would seem to be the first time that Israel has been in the exceptional situation in which, instead of having the U.S. Administration trying to placate it, as was the case with regard to contacts with the PLO, it is Israel that is trying to placate the United States. It is almost funny to think that once again we have become a source of worry for the Americans, this time not because of our intransigence, but because of fears that political progress might be made in a direction worrisome to them.

It may yet turn out, in the wake of this glasnost-like openness between us and the Soviets, that progress is being hindered by a seemingly unforeseeable element: Washington is not particularly fond of Soviet activism and is having a hard time concealing its uneasiness.

Another difficulty is that the Likud component in the government will waste no time making it clear that the Americans have no reason to worry about contacts that will lead nowhere.

This troika—Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union—presented a problem even when the administration tried to push its own initiative, the Shultz initiative, 2 years before the elections. After all, only if we became sclerotic would we forget U.S. apprehension about an international conference and the hesitancy displayed by the U.S. secretary of state because of that same fear about excessive Soviet involvement in exerting pressure on Israel to agree to an international opening according to the Peres-Husayn proposal.

The previous administration, whose President described the Soviet Union as the Evil Empire, used all the words in the vocabulary—some nicer than others—to illustrate his doubts about an international conference. Although he has not yet gotten his act together, his successor is already confronted with two important developments.

The first is a relatively new willingness by the prime minister to agree to an international opening, albeit under the aegis of the superpowers alone. Washington has not explicitly repeated its reservations about such a possibility, although it has emphasized that Soviet recognition of Israel is a prerequisite. The new secretary of state sufficed with voicing his doubts about an opening with the participation of all the permanent members of the UN Security Council. This is how it looks at face value, but reading between the lines it is clear that the United States feels uneasy about increasing Soviet involvement. From its opposition to the participation of all five UN Security Council members, one may learn about another objection: that Washington is not thrilled about a dual sponsorship on an equal footing either.

The second development, of course, is the recent Soviet eruption into the region. There is not enough evidence about the extent of our coordination with the United States on the eve of the meeting in Cairo, but I have reason to believe that the administration reacted coolly when we informed it about Jerusalem's approval of Arens' trip.

The U.S. reluctance to make hasty progress (a worrisome phenomenon in its own right) stems from the fact that the administration has not placed the Middle East at the top of its priorities in the foreseeable future. On a recent visit to Israel, Stuart Eizenstat, an observant half-Jew and high-level adviser of former administrations, said that the topmost item in U.S. foreign policy is arms limitations and the formulation of other Western accords with the Soviet Union. The second most important issue pertains to the trade balance and, consequently, relations with Japan. The third issue on the U.S. agenda is Central America, while our region ranks only fourth on the list.

Nevertheless, there is a deeper reason hovering over the agenda of the U.S. Administration, which has always chosen to take upon itself too many international affairs at the same time. Upon his rise to power, the winning President brought along powerful conservative Republicans who still see the Soviets as a scourge and a threat to U.S. interests wherever they may be. The Soviet great leap forward into this regional maze represents a serious danger for them.

This is the reason for the marriage of convenience, a sort of affinity of interests, between the United States and the Likud in the past. Shamir could tell Secretary of State Shultz in a language that is very well understood in Washington: What do you want with all that talk about a new political initiative—that the Russians should penetrate this region by means of an international conference? Indeed, although not surprising but very disappointing at the time for Peres, there was actually no need to persuade Shultz about the infeasibility of the plans that were floated in 1986-1987, seeing that the condition for their implementation was the inclusion of the Soviet Union into the picture.

Now that new moves are taking place, to a large extent thanks to the Soviet initiative, the fear is that—beyond the meetings and the smiles for photo opportunities—the Likud-Washington combination might once again try to make them vanish into thin air. This is a rather bizarre situation, which calls for what we know as the dovish camp to revert, to some extent, to the long-forgotten ideology of cooperation between Moscow and our staunchest enemies. Although at one time this was called neutralism (the late Nahum Goldman frequently mentioned this term in connection with a peace settlement), today it sounds like an anachronistic cliche. Whatever the definition may be, what is needed is an understanding that the Soviet Union has come here to stay and that no progress can be made toward a settlement without it.

If the Likud's sole intention is to play a game of international diplomatic smiles with the Soviets, this will satisfy only the United States. The strange game that needs to be played now is one of exerting moderate pressure on Washington in a direction we are not accustomed to in order for it to give us its approval to exhaust the new contacts, in full cooperation with it, in a bid to include Moscow fully in the regional moves.

In any event, it is clear that the Likud is not the one that will play that game. If that is the case, would it be too much to suppose that nothing will move here until the United States changes its mind and approves of Soviet participation? As much as he would like to, even the finance minister ("I also have a plan") will not be able to help.

Shamir Interviewed on Talks With Mitterrand

PM2802124689 Paris LIBERATION in French 24 Feb 89 p 23

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Corinne Bensimon and Pierre Haski in Paris on 23 February]

[Text] France and Israel have found the most cordial and elegant way of disagreeing. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who ended a 3-day official visit to Paris this morning, does not disapprove of the solution. "Even if you disagree, it is better to have good relations," the Israeli prime minister said in an interview to LIBERATION yesterday evening. "It is true," he added, "France is Israel's friend and political disagreements have nothing to do with those bilateral relations. We follow the same principle in our relations with the United States."

At the dinner given by [French Prime Minister] Michel Rocard the previous evening, those "disagreements" were expressed openly at the same time as the reaffirmation of friendship between the two countries. Yitzhaq Shamir bluntly expressed his unswerving refusal to negotiate with "the PLO terrorists who have not abandoned the aim of destroying us"—men who, he added, "are trying to hide their blood-stained hands in diplomats' white gloves...." He categorically rejected France's call on Israel to take part in an international conference with Yasir 'Arafat's PLO.

Did Yitzhaq Shamir persuade Francois Mitterrand not to meet with the PLO leader? "I did not try to persuade him," he replied. "I simply explained to him that if 'Arafat and his friends are given more importance, it will increase violence and push back the opportunities for peace. That would amount to attaching less importance to more moderate elements."

Francois Mitterrand "has not yet made any decision about his meeting with 'Arafat, and so that was useful," the Israeli prime minister said, and he added: "We decided to keep in touch with the president of the republic on these subjects, and if there is anything new, to exchange views on it. He told me that he had a great deal to think about following our talks...." After the Mitterrand-Shamir talks on Wednesday, the Elysee said, more tersely, that the French president "did not observe any really new viewpoint in the analysis or proposals" made by the Israeli leader and that he had asked him "to take account of the present situation."

Yitzhaq Shamir does not believe in the "moderation" of the PLO's positions, highlighted by France. "They are words spoken for tactical reasons, they are not sincere. The PLO has not changed. 'Arafat makes a few statements to satisfy U.S. demands in order to open dialogue, but his positions have not changed, as we know only too well," according to this little man with a gray mustache, who reaffirmed, probably for the umpteenth time, his rejection of an organization that has gained new respectability throughout the world in recent months.

Questioned on the Cairo meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze and Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Shamir said it was a "positive development." "We need more meetings, more exchanges of views, in order to understand each other better after a very long period without contacts. The Soviets must be given the opportunity to understand us. Meetings between experts will be useful."

But the Israeli prime minister criticized the Soviet Union for the precondition it is putting forward for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, namely its agreement to an international peace conference. "We are trying to persuade the Soviets to accept the same principles as those that govern their relations with the United States—drawing a distinction between bilateral relations and political assessments.... I once asked Gromyko why Israel was treated differently. He replied: The Middle East is a different matter.... That is not convincing."

With regard to the proposal made by Mr Shevardnadze yesterday for bilateral negotiations between the protagonists in the conflict before an international conference is held, Yitzhaq Shamir rejected it without hesitation. "That is no help, we are opposed to it. We will not talk with the PLO, with or without an international conference. It makes no difference. We are opposed to an international conference and that is all there is to it."

"We prefer direct negotiations," the Israeli government chief reaffirmed. "We are prepared to have direct negotiations with all Arab states, and with the Palestinian population, but not with the PLO." Is it not inconsistent to want to talk with the Palestinians but not the PLO? "Not at all, we know the PLO...." However, he said he is prepared to give the UN secretary general a role: "We must start a negotiation process. The secretary general can be useful, as he was in the Iraq-Iran conflict. That is possible."

Is Yitzhaq Shamir not afraid of giving the impression of saying no to everything and rejecting opportunities for peace? "When have I said no? I say yes to direct negotiations, yes to peace with all Arab states, yes to peace with the Palestinian population, yes to exceptional efforts to find temporary and permanent solutions to the Israeli-Arab conflict. I say no to just two proposals—the international conference and the PLO," he said with a smile, as if they were insignificant details.

During his Paris visit, Yitzhaq Shamir tried to improve Israel's image, which has been tarnished by the intifadah [uprising] and the repression in the occupied territories. But did he succeed? At all events he spared no effort, having meetings with French intellectuals and the press in addition to politicians. Some point out changes of tone, new references to the "Palestinians' aspirations,"

and an implicit renunciation of the annexation of territory, which could cause him some problems in his own party. But it is no surprise that the Israeli prime minister is leaving without making any concessions on the question of negotiations: The next "round" will take place for him in Washington next month.

Egypt's Al-Majid on Tabah Agreement, Territories
TA0103095989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 89 p 8

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Excerpts] Cairo—The resolution of the Tabah border dispute is an "incentive" for normalizing relations between Egypt and Israel, which "has to be taken very seriously and encouraged," Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said in his first interview with an Israeli newspaper since the signing of Sunday's agreement [on Tabah]. 'Abd al-Majid said Israelis and Egyptians should try to bolster relations based on their common sense of "human brotherhood."

But that same human sensibility leads Egypt to oppose Israeli actions in the occupied territories, 'Abd al-Majid said.

"There are things we don't like in Israel. We do not agree with what Israel is doing in the occupied territories. But many Israelis also are opposed (to Israeli policy); I know it and I feel it." [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid said that opposition to the peace treaty with Israel, still strong among intellectuals and the opposition, is a "part of the legacy of the past" to be gradually overcome.

'Abd al-Majid maintains that the peaceful resolution of the Tabah issue had touched a positive nerve in Egyptian public opinion here.

He stressed that he was speaking "as an average Egyptian."

The average Egyptian is a "peaceloving one," 'Abd al-Majid said. "But there also are things you cannot pressure him on. He has seen the fruits of peace, the benefits, but also the problems. Still these problems are minimal in comparison to going to war."

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is "satisfied" with the peace between Israel and Egypt. "But we think it should be made into a comprehensive peace," he said, referring to calls for an international peace conference.

He said that Egypt had tried repeatedly to convey its desire for a comprehensive peace, a genuine peace and a peace conference both to the Israeli public and to its government.

If Israel remains unconvinced then "what more can Egypt do?"

But 'Abd al-Majid said he remained optimistic that public opinion in Israel was moving in the right direction. And he pointed to recent Israeli polls indicating that 50 per cent of the public is ready to talk to the PLO as a "very encouraging trend." Speaking just a month before the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, 'Abd al-Majid said he affirmed that the course the late president Anwar al-Sadat had chosen was a "great" one.

Despite the current differences, Israel and Egypt must strive to understand each other's points of view.

Commentary Lauds 'Civilized' Tabah Negotiations
JN2702162889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 27 Feb 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: The agreement signed yesterday evening by Israeli and Egyptian representatives, and according to which sovereignty over Tabah will be transferred to Egypt on 15 March, undoubtedly provides bright proof that any problem between two countries, no matter how it appears or how difficult and complicated it looks, can be solved through civilized negotiations accompanied by good intentions and the sincere common desire to find an honorable solution satisfactory to both sides.

It is certain that the Tabah agreement provides yet another proof of the extent of Israel's eagerness to meet its obligations and respect its written and oral commitments in letter and spirit. Perhaps one of the most prominent features of this agreement is that it did not only bring about an honorable and satisfactory solution to the dispute that lasted for years between Egypt and Israel, but also introduced an effective and powerful instrument that would help make additional progress toward the normalization of the Israeli-Egyptian relations in the interest of both countries and peoples.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Dr Fu'ad Sultan said yesterday that Egypt intends to convert Tabah into a Red Sea Riviera that competes with the French Riviera. The government and people of Israel hope that Tabah, under Egyptian sovereignty, will become a vivid symbol of good neighborliness, peaceful coexistence, and fruitful cooperation between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples.

Trade With Greece Reported at Record Level
TA1502174789 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 4

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Excerpt] Trade between Israel and Greece reached a record sum of $178 million in 1988. This is an 18-percent increase from last year.

Israel's trade balance with Greece is the most positive of all the EC countries. Exports to Greece in 1988 reached some $125 million and included chemicals, agricultural machinery, electronic products, fertilizers, and refrigerators. Imports from that country, reaching some $53 million, included tobacco, cotton, dishwashers, shoes, dried fruit, and more.

This data was presented at the closing of the Israeli pavilion at the international Agrotech trade fair in Salonika. Ten Israeli irrigation and agricultural machinery companies participated in the fair.

Despite the statement made by Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz in which he had decided to cut agricultural ties with Greece because of its political stands on Israeli matters, the opening of the Israeli booth was attended by Commerce Minister Nikolaos Akritidhis, Deputy Agriculture Minister Dhimitrios Pitsioris, and the Salonika mayor.

Yesterday, Israel's diplomatic representative to Greece, Ambassador Moshe Gilboa', was asked by Greek journalists: "What is Israel doing at the Salonika trade fair in the wake of Katz-'Oz' statements?" Gilboa' replied that the Israeli Government does not favor economic sanctions as a means of solving political disagreements. [passage omitted]

Value of Palestinian-Israeli Meetings Assessed
TA2302151989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 89 p 14

[Commentary by Ori Nir: "Close Encounters of the Negative Kind?"]

[Excerpts] The series of meetings Israeli politicians held with Faysal al-Husayni and several other Palestinian figures evoked waves of criticism even in nationalistic Palestinian circles. A poignant debate is being waged these days among leaders in the territories on the extent to which encounters of this sort promote the Palestinian cause. Many of them claim that, from the national Palestinian viewpoint, under the present circumstances, these encounters are of the negative kind.

The annoyance felt by many is the result of the extensive media coverage that accompanied the meetings, where Al-Husayni was presented as an authentic local Palestinian leader "with whom things can be discussed," a genuine representative of the residents of the territories. It has been said by many that the publicity and image building have somewhat damaged Al-Husayni's reasoning. The PLO leadership, however, has so far relayed clear messages—some of them explicit, others implied through silence—saying that it welcomes the meetings.

It is a well-known practice in the territories to wash the dirty laundry at home. For that reason, people have been unwilling to be quoted on their critical remarks regarding Al-Husayni and his public behavior patterns. These come mainly from the group dubbed the Palestinian "cocktail leadership" (a circle of Palestinian activists from the area of Jerusalem and environs, who are often invited to cocktail parties at foreign embassies. There are others who dub them the "jet set" of the territories.)

One of those who doubt the political value of encounters with Israeli politicians in the atmosphere prevailing in the territories today, encounters accompanied by television spotlights and microphones, is Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of East Jerusalem Arab Journalists Association, a Palestinian public activist with rich experience in meetings with Israeli politicians (including some very senior Labor Party officials). "In principle, none of us objects to the meetings with Israelis," says Abu 'Ayyash. "On the contrary, meetings seeking to clarify and explain the Palestinian stand can be only beneficial. The reservations derive from the fact that Israeli politicians, such as Yitzhaq Rabin, can later take advantage of the very fact that national Palestinian figures have been meeting with Israeli politicians—and it does not matter what was said in those meetings—to use it as a propaganda weapon with which they will attempt to uphold the illusion of an 'alternative leadership' to the PLO in the territories."

Numerous public figures from the territories share the conviction that while Israeli Cabinet ministers talk about driving a wedge between PLO supporters in the territories and the PLO leadership abroad, the existence of meetings between Palestinian and Israeli political personages is likely to serve none other than the very goal they have been trying to avoid and to create the impression that this separating wedge does, in fact, exist. These public activists, most of whom are more conversant with the political developments in Israel than any average intelligent Israeli, listen carefully to the remarks of Defense Minister Rabin, who has recently taken to spicing his speeches with terms such as "Tunis PLO" and "Syria PLO," in contrast with "residents of the territories, who have not declared themselves members of the PLO."

Rabin makes almost daily declarations that he draws a line between residents of the territories—whatever political opinions they may express—and the PLO leadership (in his terminology—the "Tunis PLO").

In other words, as Abu 'Ayyash has put it, the fear that the political encounters may cause more trouble than good derives from the fact that they are likely to create the impression that genuine negotiations between figures from the territories and Israeli politicians have been launched that bypass the PLO—the only Palestinian authority which can, according to the Palestinian consensus, conduct negotiations.

The criticism leveled at meetings with Israeli politicians, which has been voiced by numerous Palestinians in the territories, has resulted in the very extensive and apologetic interview that Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah, the other participant in the meetings, granted East

Jerusalem PLO-affiliated AL-FAJR in this week's Sunday issue. The two attempted to explain the positive aspects of the meetings with Israeli figures and to stress that their existence is not against the official PLO policy. [passage omitted]

To use Yitzhaq Rabin's terminology, what Al-Husayni and Nusaybah have told him is this: The path to the "Tunis PLO" passes through the "Jerusalem PLO," and even beyond that; the dialogue with the "Jerusalem PLO" can be of any use only if it eventually leads to the "Tunis PLO."

A strange situation has thus arisen in which the two sides—the Palestinians on the one hand and Yitzhaq Rabin on the other—use the same means to achieve totally opposed objectives: Rabin—to demonstrate that it is possible to achieve a dialogue with residents of the territories without the PLO, in order to drive the wedge between them more deeply; the Palestinians (inside and outside the territories) are interested in the exact opposite.

Despite the Palestinian camp's reservations as to the benefit of meetings with Israeli politicians, it seems that the erosion in the official Israeli stands (as it is expressed in the poignant arguments inside the Labor Party) regarding contacts with the PLO, as well as the creation of a vague impression that what is being conducted are indirect contacts or uncertain checking of the ground with the Israeli Government, are in the end perceived as sufficient achievements to determine the outcome of the Palestinian public debate in favor of holding more meetings in the future.

Conflicting 'Uprising' Casualty Tolls Reported

TA0103143889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 1 Mar 89 p 10

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 27 February, the army spokesman reported 304 Palestinian casualties in the territories. This figure only includes persons killed by soldiers' fire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian casualties has reached 407.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 508 dead, according to the following breakdown:

—344 killed by soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;

—71 killed by gas inhalation;

—43 killed by beatings and electrocution;

—50 dead from other causes.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered

TA2402152589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad in the Nazareth area whose members belong to Ahmad Jibril's PFLP. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the squad includes seven people led by Bassam Makhdumi, 35, a journalist from Nazareth. Makhdumi was recruited into the PFLP last year by his brother Nabil, who was released in the framework of the Jibril exchange deal and expelled to Lebanon. The squad also includes Muhammad Abu Tur from Jerusalem, another of those released in the Jibril deal. The detainees have admitted to the charges against to them. Indictments have been filed against them, and they will be tried at the Lod military court.

Firebombs Thrown in Jerusalem

TA2802170789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown today near Herod's Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. Only one of the firebombs ignited and no casualties were reported. A number of suspects were detained for questioning.

There were also stone-throwing incidents in the north. A man driving his car on Mt Gilboa' complained that a stone was thrown at him and struck his windshield. Another car was damaged by a rock near Zippori on the Nazareth road.

2 Jewish Women, 3 Arabs Hurt

TA2802203089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Three Arab residents were wounded by Israeli army gunfire in the course of violent incidents in the territories today. The curfew on several suburbs in the Gaza Strip is still in force. The blockade that was imposed on the territories yesterday due to the municipal elections ends tonight at 2200.

Two Israeli women were injured approximately 1 hour ago near the village of 'Azzun in Samaria after stones were hurled at them. The incident occurred while the woman were driving past the village gas station. One of the women was apparently seriously injured when a stone struck her head. She was immediately taken to Beilinson Hospital. The other woman was hit by glass splinters and only slightly hurt.

1 Wounded in Gaza

TA2802204189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A resident of the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was seriously injured by rubber bullets fired by Army troops during violent demonstrations. He was taken to the Tel Hashomer Hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that violent disturbances also took place in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

The Army imposed a curfew in the vicinity of the village of 'Azzun in Samaria after two women from the settlement of Ma'ale Shomron were injured by stones. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that soldiers arrived at the scene and began searches.

This evening we learned that security prisoners and administrative detainees from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip rioted yesterday at the Qezi'ot detention facility. The Army Southern Command spokesman reported that none of the inmates was injured.

More on 28 Feb Incidents

TA0103094689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 89 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Ramallah—The territories and East Jerusalem were paralyzed yesterday by a general strike called to back an Arab boycott of municipal elections in the capital.

In the West Bank, troops shot and killed a Palestinian late Monday during a clash at Dayr Ibzi', northwest of Ramallah. Another 15 Palestinians were reported wounded in the territories yesterday. [passage omitted]

Yesterday's shutdown was more widely observed than previous strikes, with few motorists using their cars, apparently because of a stern warning in underground leaflets against use of public and private transportation.

Traffic was also curtailed by a ban on movement of Palestinians from the territories to Israel during election day.

East Jerusalem and West Bank towns looked deserted, with hardly a car or pedestrian on streets lined with shuttered shops. [passage omitted]

In other clashes yesterday, four persons were reported wounded in the West Bank, and 11 in the Gaza Strip.

A 15-year-old boy from Tulkarm was wounded in the chest, thigh and hand when troops opened fire at teenagers who stoned military headquarters, Palestinians said. Also, a 20-year-old was wounded in the back in Hebron, a youth was wounded at Silwad and another protester was wounded in Janin.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said that 11 people were injured by gunfire, one of them seriously. The IDF spokesman reported no major incidents there. [passage omitted]

3 Nablus Residents Wounded

TA0103133889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Three residents of the Nablus casbah were wounded by army gunfire this morning in a stone-throwing incident. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident developed after the curfew was lifted for a 2 hour period to enable the residents to purchase food. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, curfews were lifted in three townships. The only remaining curfew is on the village of Bayt Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip.

West Bank Employees' Salaries Put in Amman Bank

TA2802170389 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 1

[Exclusive AL-SHA'B report]

[Text] Nablus—The management of the Arab Bank in Amman has opened official accounts for all civil servants who were appointed in government departments and institutions after 5 June 1967. The payment of these salaries was suspended at the end of last July by the Jordanian Government following the decision to cut judicial and administrative links with the West Bank.

Salaries for a 5-month period, from August until the end of December 1988, have been deposited in new accounts opened for every employee at the bank in Amman. The salaries for January and February 1989 will be deposited in the same accounts at the end of this month.

In order to draw money or transfer it to another bank, the employee has to send a certificate from the religious court in his district, or from the chamber of commerce, proving that he is still working at his job.

A number of civil servants have so far received their salaries.

Jordanian Charge of Devaluing Currency Rebutted

JN1202164289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 12 Feb 89

[From "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" program]

[Text] On 8 February 1988, Amman radio charged that Israel is working to bring about a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. It said verbatim that the Israeli occupation authorities are encouraging the West Bank people to exchange the Jordanian dinar for foreign currency and

allowing the unrestricted transfer of the dinar and bringing in of foreign currencies with the aim of undermining the steadfastness and economics of the Arab population.

This is just not true. Israel has neither encourged the people to get rid of the dinar nor given instructions for bringing in foreign currencies in bulk. Hundreds of thousands of travelers across the bridges will testify to this fact. Add to this the fact that Israel does not stand to gain from a devalued Jordanian dinar: This would result in economic straits that would affect Israel as well as the population. A depressed economy hardly lends itself to the tranquillity that Israel seeks to achieve.

The pundits of Jordanian propaganda know the factors behind the fall of the Jordanian dinar. Their attempts to implicate Israel will not do.

The factors have to do with a cutoff of Arab assistance to Jordan; the aid to frontline states has dried up. The Arab oil producers no longer represent a lebensraum for the Jordanians.

Police Report Arrests, Discovery of Drugs

Cocaine Seized, Smugglers Held

TA1302161889

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 February in a page A8 report by Me'ir Hare'uveni writes: "Gil Avisar, 25, from 'Akko, was apprehended by Galilee District Police after a chase through the town's neighborhoods. He is suspected of possessing a large amount of heroin. At the time of his arrest, a bag containing 17 grams of the drug was found on his body."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 1 February reports that "in Ashdod, police carried out a raid and arrested 14 residents on charges of selling drugs. The raid was carried out after investigators received inside information from a drug dealer informant."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 February reports: "A quantity of 820 units of heroin was seized yesterday in a Tel Aviv apartment belonging to members of the Hare Krishna sect. The drugs were found in a kitchen jar. Plant seeds apparently used in drug manufacturing were discovered inside a safe in the apartment. The arrest of two suspects was extended by 7 days in the Tel Aviv Magistrates' court today."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 13 February in a page 16 report by Tzvi Singer reports: "Following a tipoff by a known criminal about three youths smuggling cocaine to Israel, Jerusalem narcotics squad detectives staked out the post office in the Qiryat Menahem neighborhood. The information provided them mentioned a cocaine shipment due to arrive for pickup. "One of the three, a student born in Argentina, came to the post office and was picked up as soon as he laid hands on the package. When the detectives opened it they found 17 grams of cocaine. The youth was detained, and after a brief investigation the police detained several of his friends."

Drug Seizures Reported

TA1502201389

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 February reports that "a Colombian citizen was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport with 500 grams of cocaine, enough to prepare 8,000 units, in his possession. The incident took place 2 weeks ago but was only released to the media today."

In a report by Mikhal Qedem on page 6 on 14 February, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew writes: "The Beersheba District court sentenced 34-year-old Nisim Sandrussi to 5 years in prison. Upon his confession, he was convicted of importing heroin to Israel. Sandrussi had sent his sisters in Beersheba two parcels containing electric appliances in which he concealed 270 grams of heroin."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 February carries a report by Natan Ro'i on page 6 saying that "a network of drug importers and distributors was uncovered in Rishon Leziyyon and Bat Yam." Moshe Elimelekh is suspected of running the network. "He was found in possession of 6 grams of cocaine. Moshe Zo'eretz is suspected of being his assistant. While in detention, he was found in possession of 10 grams of cocaine. A third suspect, a 29-year-old Bat Yam resident, was detained as well. He is believed to be "one of the largest drug dealers in the Tel Aviv area." He was found in possession of 10 grams of cocaine. The police have detained a number of Tel Aviv businessmen for interrogation in connection with this network.

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 February carries a report by Fa'iz 'Abbas on page 11 saying that ""Umar Abu Sayf (24) from Yafo was yesterday given an 8 and ½ year prison term after being convicted of possessing and trading hard drugs." He financed two drug deals worth some $150,000."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 February in a report by Roni Sofer on page 11 of section a, says that "the detention of Sulayman Jabir al-Huzayl (70) was yesterday extended by the Beersheba District Court. He is suspected of selling 15 grams of heroin to an undercover policeman on two occasions."

Heroin Seized, Dealers Held

TA1802080289

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 16 February reports that "the Galilee District police uncovered a drug station in 'Akko. The police detained two Arabs from Old 'Akko and two Jewish women from the Haifa area. Twenty doses of heroin were confiscated."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 17 February reports, "Last night 'Arad District detectives confiscated 6 kg of heroin, enough to make up 60,000 doses and worth some 6 million shekels, from a Bedouin inhabitant of Tel Sheva'. The raid was the result of intense intelligence work among the Bedouins by Negev District police."

Jerusalem Residents Arrested

TA2402163389

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 19 February, in a report by Zehava Moses on page 19, reports that two Jerusalem residents were arrested over the weekend on suspicion of having financed the purchase of "9 and ½ kg of heroin, from which about 150,000 doses can be prepared and whose market value is about 12 million shekels." The heroin was smuggled to Israel from Germany and seized by police officers at Ben-Gurion Airport. The Israeli police cooperated with European police forces in uncovering the drug ring involved, and more arrests are expected.

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 20 February, in a report by Ayelet Mazor on page 15, reports that prison terms ranging from 36 to 50 months were handed down by the Beersheba District Court to six Lebanese and one Egyptian who "were convicted of smuggling narcotics from Lebanon to Egypt via the Mediterranean." According to the indictment, on 22 November 1988 the seven smuggled 1 ton of hashish from Lebanon to Egypt, and were intercepted by the Israeli Navy. Their vessel was confiscated.

In a report on the same date and page of 'AL HAMISHMAR, the ITIM news agency reports that a 20-year-old Beersheba woman, suspected of concealing a commercial quantity of heroin, was detained for 7 days for questioning. A body search revealed approximately 5 grams of heroin that the woman claimed to have purchased "at the cost of 300 shekels per 2 grams" for private consumption.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 20 February reports that the Ayalon District police arrested 18 men and women "suspected of operating a drug-dealing network in the Holon, Bat Yam, and Yafo areas." One of women was found hiding 100 doses of heroin in her brassiere, while one of the men tried to attack a policeman with a knife upon his arrest.

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 22 February, in a report by Yo'av Aviv on page 19, reports that an employee of the Northern District ' 'torney's Office was arrested for stealing heroin that "served as legal exhibits in criminal files." The 20-year-old employee, Marcello Ben-Natan Boroqas from Nazareth, also stole drugs from the office safe. A formal indictment was submitted against Boroqas, who is accused of "having stolen 21 grams of heroin from one court file, and 20 grams from another file," as well as taking 70 grams of heroin from police dossiers that were delivered to the Northern District Attorney's Office for the preparation of indictments. The prosecutor added that the defendant also broke into the office, opened the safe, and "stole 489 grams of heroin on one occasion, and 100 grams on another."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 23 February reports that the police caught two drug dealers from the Golan village of Al-Ghajar who were found in possession of "more than 1 kg of heroin that was smuggled from Lebanon."

Further on Visit of PDRY Foreign Minister

Meets Trade Minister

JN2602185489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Talks were held at the Industry and Trade Ministry today between Jordanian officials led by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and a PDRY delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali.

The talks centered on promoting economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade exchange, agriculture, and fisheries. They also discussed joint projects, increasing Jordan's medical exports to the PDRY, and increasing Jordan's imports of cotton, fish, and oil byproducts from the fraternal PDRY.

The two countries also discussed forming a joint higher committee at prime minister level or a committee for economic cooperation at the ministerial level to enhance bilateral economic relations and overcome obstacles hindering joint Arab action.

Al-Tabba' called for reinforcing economic relations between the two countries and praised progress made in bilateral relations in all fields. He also called for further Arab cooperation through bilateral agreements and for overcoming obstacles hindering joint Arab action.

Dr al-Dali stressed the need to bolster bilateral cooperation in the economic, agricultural, trade, transport, and transit fields and to increase trade exchange between the two countries.

Meets Information Minister

JN2702134689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah met with PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali at the Ministry of Information today. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields, particularly information.

Dr al-Dali expressed his happiness to be visiting Jordan and the PDRY's desire to develop cooperation with Jordan in all fields. He said: We look forward to Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's visit to the PDRY at the soonest possible time to crown efforts to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries.

Dr al-Dali praised the distinguished accomplishments of the Jordanian communications and information media. Dr al-Khasawinah expressed Jordan's readiness to provide every possible support to the PDRY in the information field, pointing out that Jordan, represented in all its institutions by, and following the directives of, His Majesty King Husayn, always exerts every effort to strengthen cooperation and consultation with all Arab countries.

PRC Industry Delegation Arrives 28 Feb

JN0103031189 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Amman, 1 Mar (PETRA)—Wang Rulin, PRC vice minister of metallurgical industry, arrived in Amman yesterday leading a delegation on a 5-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the PRC delegation will meet with a number of officials and will visit the Al-Hasan Sports City project in Irbid, which is financed by China and built by a Chinese company. He was received by the secretary general of the Public Works and Housing Ministry and the director of the department of buildings.

63,050 Work Permits Issued to Foreigners

JN2102081889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra, J.T.)—A wide scale campaign launched by the Ministry of Labour and the Public Security Department (PSD) to control the local labour market has yielded good results, according to a statement by a ministry official.

He said that the ministry issued 63,050 work permits to non-Jordanian workers during 1988, with the month of December having the lion's share and accounting for 19,168 permits.

According to the official 40,629 permits were issued to Egyptian nationals, 3,483 permits to Syrians, and 15,126 to non-Arab nationals from Asia.

The past year witnessed a drop of 16,761 in the number of work permits issued to non-Jordanians for employment in the country compared to the figure of the previous year, largely due to the Ministry of Labour's campaign which was represented in teams of officials touring all private and public organisations to ensure that employees were working in fields for which they were employed.

The official paid tribute to the employers of foreign workers for their cooperation with the ministry teams that helped control the local labour market.

According to Mr. Muhammad al-Hadidi, director of the ministry's Amman Employment Department, teams have been assigned to the task of carrying out inspection tours of different firms and institutions.

The teams were sent out following repeated violations on the part of the workers and employers who had been warned not to conduct business with the non-Jordanian workers in violation of regulations, Al-Hadidi noted.

Editorial Views King Husayn CNN Interview

JN2702071989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 89 p4

[Editorial: "Backtracking on 242?"]

[Text] In the wake of His Majesty King Husayn's interview with the American television network, Cable News Networ! (CNN), Saturday in which he reminded all those who cared to hear that there was no need for any new initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict since there was already an initiative in the form of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, painstakingly articulated and adopted with the consent of all the parties to the conflict as well as by the international community, the ears of the world must be tuned once again to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to discern whether the old Israeli committment to that resolution is still there to count on.

Not only Israel had affixed its seal of approval to that resolution some twently years ago, it also sung the 242 song with the rest of the international chorus for as long as one can remember. And when it was time to implement that resolution on the strength of the follow up Security Council Resolution 338 which called for an international conference for that purpose, Israel started its well-known tradition of foot dragging to frustrate the process of executing that eventful international judgment.

Obviously the best way for Israel to derail the process of implementing 242 is to nip it in the bud by refusing an international mechanism for its enforcement. Such consistent Israeli tactics would cast doubt on Israel's sincerity in accepting Resolution 242, and it looks like it has been taking the Arab side as well as the international community for a ride all along. Otherwise, Israeli leaders would have no trouble entertaining any meaningful methodology that aims to implement that resolution.

Clearly Israel has yet to reconcile itself to the principle of withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in the war of 1967; and it seems also that its initial acceptance of the resolution was tactical rather than strategic. Accordingly, every time the Arab side seeks to collect on that resolution, successive Israeli governments would throw all kind of red herrings in their path.

This is the fundamental message that the Arab parties would like the new American administration to comprehend. As long as Washington is also marking time in its attitude towards the peace process in the Middle East and as long as the U.S. associates itself with the Israeli tactics that aim to frustrate the will of the international community to affect an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, the Arab World also has cause to question Washington's committment to Resolution 242.

Yet there is no escape for either Israel or the U.S. from the biting teeth of Resolution 242 which has been effectively incorporated into the corpus of international customary law. Both countries would be flirting with lawlessness not to mention international and regional insecurity if they continue to brush aside the call of the international community to go full speed ahead in the only operational way to implement the resolution, i.e., the convening of an effective international conference sooner than later.

Editorial Praises Thatcher 'Message' to U.S.

JN0103090589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Three Cheers for Thatcher"]

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher struck a remarkably courageous note during her Paris press conference at the end of the Franco-British summit Monday, when she amplified the three principal conditions for the commencement of the peace process in the Middle East. By far the most notable of Mrs. Thatcher's triple sine qua non for starting the process of negotiations in the Middle East between the Arab parties and Israel is her call on the U.S. to be "firm" with Israel.

Mrs. Thatcher deserves to be commended for her outspokenness on the Israeli foot-dragging which clearly shows how much Britain is exasperated over the continued U.S. policy of playing second fiddle to Israeli leaders. Mrs. Thatcher is in the best position to talk straight to Washington as her credentials, as a strong ally of the U.S., are impeccable. This "enough is enough" message to Washington from London is not open for misinterpretations; it is as clear as words and intents can ever convey. To be sure, the implications and connotations of Mrs. Thatcher's heart to heart advice to Washington are obviously too clear and incisive to need elaborations.

In the same vein, President Francois Mitterrand has also expressed similar judgments on the peace process in the Middle East and the French leader's words hopefully would not fall on deaf ears in Tel Aviv and Washington. By calling on Israel to heed the new realities created by the PLO in the wake of the momentous decisions taken in Algiers last autumn, the British call on Washington to be firmer on Tel Aviv stands out as an act of unprecedented political and intellectual courage that could prove to be the very kind of political expression that would initiate the peace process in the Middle East on solid grounds.

This is not to diminish the importance of the conditions prescribed by Mrs. Thatcher, namely, that the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council should shoulder their responsibility for convening the projected international peace conference on the Middle East, and that the Palestinians should be engaged as well in the negotiations for the settlement of the Palestinian conflict. As the PLO is the internationally recognised representative of the Palestinian people, it would be the natural thing to have it attend the anticipated international conference and negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians the unique Palestinian dimension of the overall Arab-Israeli conflict.

Should Washington and Tel Aviv yield to the words of wisdom uttered by Margaret Thatcher, the ball of peace in the Middle East could really get rolling after all.

Columnist Faults 'Satanic Verses' Ban

JN2802144189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Feb 89 pp 14, 15

["Pens and Opinions" column: "Satanic Verses and Bureaucratic Measures" by Iyad Ibrahim al-Qattan]

[Excerpts] For more than 40 years, official Arab and Islamic organs have adopted a strange approach in responding to all kinds of foreign propaganda directed against Arabism and Islam. They have prevented us—Arabs and Muslims—from becoming acquainted with this propaganda and have deprived us of the opportunity of dealing directly with it. Their excuse is that they are protecting our sensibilities.

Thus, foreign propaganda against our causes and convictions has spread around the world in complete isolation from the Arab and Islamic intelligentsia, which has therefore done nothing to confront it, refute it, or reply to it. Arabs and Muslims are convinced that their complete ignorance of this propaganda is natural and that the dissemination of this propaganda in their region is a very serious development that should be banned. Thus, they themselves began to call for a ban on this propaganda.

A living example before us is Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." [passage omitted]

I, along with every educated Arab and Muslim strongly demand that copies of the book "The Satanic Verses" be distributed to us all. We also demand that it be left to us to respond to it in all languages and at all levels instead of preventing Arabs and Muslims from reading the book while it is published in the outside world, embedding deeper and deeper in people's minds the distorted image that foreign propaganda presents of our practices, behavior, and beliefs.

Had official Arab and Islamic organs adhered to this principle during the past 40 years, foreign propaganda would not have had worldwide publicity against us and our causes and we would not have withdrawn into our shells, waiting for a foreign journalist or an educated European to defend our causes as a heavenly gift.

Becoming acquainted with foreign propaganda, dealing directly with it, and taking cultural and organized action to refute it—using the same weapons it uses—is a national, pan-Arab, and intellecutal duty, which the bureaucratic measures in the Arab and Islamic world have prevented us from fulfilling. [passage omitted]

Hizballah To Discuss Hostage Issue 3 Mar

NC0103151189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has reported that Hizballah will hold a news conference in the Carlton Hotel at 1000 on Friday [3 March 89]. Senior officials will reveal at the conference information on events in the southern suburb and the South and will discuss the issue of the foreign hostages.

Lebanese Forces Statement on Current Developments

NC2802182689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held a meeting this afternoon under Dr Samir Ja'ja' and issued the following statement: The conferees discussed the issue of illegal ports in the wake of the close of the fifth dock. The council stressed the need to close all illegal ports in all Lebanese areas so that the closing of the fifth dock may lead to the desired results of increasing the resources of the general budget.

The Command Council considered the talks held in Kuwait between the Arab Good Offices Committee and the Lebanese spiritual leaders and expressed satisfaction with his beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr's stand at these meetings as well as the moves being made by the Arab League to remedy the Lebanese problem.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council believes that the meetings in Tunis and Kuwait have proven beyond all doubts that the Lebanese can reach an understanding among themselves if external pressures are removed. Husayn al-Husayni and Dalim al-Huss lacked freedom of movement and initiative during the Tunis meetings because of Syrian pressure. These pressures on certain spiritual leaders, even indirectly, prevented any understanding among the Lebanese parties during the recent meetings in Kuwait.

Proceeding from this premise, the Lebanese Forces reassert that the real approach to national accord and comprehensive Lebanese reconciliation can be brought about through lifting external pressure from the Lebanese political figures and leaving them to hold a free dialogue among themselves.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council expressed satisfaction with the deep understanding reached between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Ja'ja' following the successive meetings held between them to date. These meetings resulted in a complete political agreement on the national level to confront present and future dangers to the homeland. The Command Council stated that the painful incidents that buffetted the free areas recently are a black page in Lebanon's history that has been turned and must not recur. In this respect, the Lebanese Forces emphasize that rifles in the free areas, be they legal or for resistance, will, from now on, be directed at the chests of the real enemies. These enemies are represented in the occupation forces stationed on Lebanese territory, particularly the Syrian Occupation Forces which dominate large parts of Lebanese territory, crippling the action of constitutional and legitimate institutions there, and restricting the will of certain Lebanese figures.

Lebanese Forces To Leave Beirut in 1-2 Weeks

NC0103123089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] According to exclusive reports, the person nicknamed Zorro was arrested last night. He is a Lebanese Forces official in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area, which is now under the Army's full control after gunmen withdrew from its inner streets to their positions. It has been reported that the Lebanese Forces will withdraw to outside of Beirut in 1 or 2 weeks at the maximum.

Army Plans To Deploy 700 Troops Near Sidon

NC0103070089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] A military delegation from West Beirut went to Sidon yesterday and met with Deputy Nazih al-Bizri and Eng Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization. Al-Bizri disclosed that the visit was a prelude to the deployment of trops from the 6th and 12th Brigades in Al-Zahrani.

Military sources in Sidon have also been cited as saying that the visit was to examine a plan to deploy troops in the area on Friday. According to these sources, three battalions reinforced by a company of tanks will deploy on Friday in Al-Zahrani, Al-Nabatiyah, Maghdushah, and on the coastal road beginning from Sidon barracks. It is estimated that the force which will be dispatched to the south will be made up of 700 servicemen.

To Send Force to South

NC0103125189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 1 March]

[Text] In implementation of the cabinet's decision, a mechanized force of the Lebanese Army will proceed to the south on Friday morning, 3 March, to reinforce the military presence already in the area and to help in confronting the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory. It will also help restore normal life to the public utilities and support the other legitimate forces in carrying out their duties.

This step confirms the national and patriotic commitments which the Army Command has pledged, and it confirms our sacred right to liberate our occupied territory from the Israeli enemy. This step will contribute to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425,

stipulating the unconditional and unrestricted withdrawal of Israel from southern Lebanon to the internationally recognized border.

Cabinet Discusses Israel, Ports, Rushdie Book
NC2802130289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Statement by Hisham al-Sha'ar following a cabinet meeting under Prime Minister Salim al-Huss on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] During its session today, the cabinet discussed general political conditions. It evaluated the results of the second stage of the consultations which the Arab good offices committee held with the spiritual leaders in Kuwait. The cabinet expressed appreciation for the committee's sincere and continuous efforts to reach a solution to extricate Lebanon from its crisis and tribulation.

The cabinet also discussed Israel's continued indulgence in its repressive measures, such as its siege of Al-'Urqub and its detentions and terrorist activities in the south. The prime minister reviewed the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic moves involving the United Nations and the Security Council member states. He pointed out that these moves are continuing in order to exert pressure on Israel to stop its practices and allow the deportees to return to their homes and villages.

The cabinet discussed the Israeli air raid on the mountain area this morning. It denounced Israel's continued violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and asked the Foreign Ministry to take the necessary steps at the Security Council.

The cabinet discussed the question of the ports and the reopening of the Beirut port crossing. It confirmed its previous decisions on opening all the crossing points for all citizens without any hindrances. The cabinet confirmed the instructions given to the Army Command and security forces to facilitate the reopening of the port crossing, the reactivation of the customs and public security organs in all ports, and the creation of provisional customs points and public security centers in the irregular ports to secure the full rights of the Treasury and implement the regulations and laws until these ports are abolished. It also gave instructions to the financial and customs departments to ensure the collection of all revenues due the Treasury. It called for the adoption of all measures permitting the workers, unloading companies, and all concerned to return to their places of work at Beirut port in complete freedom and safety and within the framework of the laws.

The cabinet approved the interior minister's decision banning the entry, distribution, or publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" because of its blasphemy and defamation of the Islamic religion. The cabinet studied the items on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

Al-Musawi Supports Khomeyni's Stand on Rushdie
NC2602080189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has declared that the battle being fought by Islam is a fierce one. He said: All we can do is place our trust in God. He stressed that Muslims in Lebanon are part of the battle which idolatry has begun. He added that this battle will end only with the victory of the faithful.

Al-Musawi was speaking at a celebration which the Islamic Amal Movement held at its headquarters in Ba'labakk yesterday to support Imam Khomeyni's verdict against Salman Rushdie and to denounce his book "The Satanic Verses." Al-Musawi said that the sons of the Islamic resistance have always been the first to react to an Islamic event. He added, however, we must admit that the Muslims of India, Pakistan, and Britain were at the vanguard this time in confronting the West's onslaught on Islam.

Brother al-Musawi criticized some of those who are counted as Muslims such as the Al-Azhar Shaykh. He said: He and others should have confronted the situation of the Muslims rather than oppose the imam and his verdict to defend Salman Rushdie. Al-Musawi pointed out that the world has imagined that Iran has changed its course and so began a campaign to attack the prophet, may God's prayers be on him and his family, on the Koran, and Islam. Al-Musawi added: The world was taken back by the fortitude of Islamic society.

Brother al-Musawi concluded his speech by noting that the "The Satanic Verses" is the work of Zionism. He renewed his fealty to the great Imam Khomeyni. He called on the crowd to participate in a march planned for today.

Spiritual Leaders Optimistic Over Kuwait Talks
NC2302143089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Their Eminences Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; Shaykh Mursil Nasr, representative of the Druze spiritual leader; and Their Beatitudes Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and Patriarch Maximus V Hakim returned to Beirut this afternoon after meeting the Arab ministerial committee in Kuwait. Their eminences and beatitudes expressed optimism over the development of the situation in Lebanon within the framework of coexistence. They also thanked the Arab committee and its chairman for the efforts to assist Lebanon to end its crisis.

Birri, Fadlallah, Sha'ban Criticize Kuwait Talks
NC2402190389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban have reacted critically to the Kuwait meetings. Birri has said that he was shocked by the results of the second round in the Arab committee's talks with the spiritual leaders in Kuwait, adding: one day before the talks had ended, we read and heard about a unanimous agreement that reforms and a presidential election should coincide, but it was clear the next day that this stand had changed. He noted that this constitutes a real setback to the future of a solution in Lebanon.

Shaykh Fadlallah said the question is that those who are called spiritual leaders are not permitted to get involved in a political plan because Lebanon and the Arab countries are not willing to accept the active role of the so-called clergymen in politics. The issue, he added, is not that of the politicians or the spiritual leaders. There are some influential parties to the Lebanese question, he said, adding: What is their opinion and their stand?

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] said that the spiritual leaders who had returned from Kuwait are being used as a cover for the conspiracy against Islam and Muslims. He added: We believe that, for the regimes which are fighting Islam in the name of the Arab committee, they are a cover for attaining peace with the Jews.

Two-Way Traffic Resumes at Beirut Port Crossing
NC2802155189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Two-way traffic resumed at the port crossing [in Beirut] after it was opened on the western side at 1430 today. The crossing was opened from the eastern side yesterday.

'Arafat's Fatah Reportedly Aided Hizballah
NC2402100289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Ranking Amal Movement officials in the South have accused pro-'Arafat gunmen of assisting Hizballah in the recent fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The officials said they had seized wireless equipment between Al-Rashidiyah and Ba'labakk corroborating the reports that the Fatah Movement had given military aid to Hizballah, including hardware and RPG's.

Explosions Target West Beirut; Syrians Attacked
NC2502070189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Two explosive devices went off in West Beirut last night, the first in the Al-Hamra' area and the second opposite the Byblos Bank in the Verdun area, causing only property damage. In another development, the 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has declared that some of its members ambushed and opened fire at a Syrian water tanker along the Abu Samra road at dawn today. Two Syrian soldiers were wounded as a result. Immediately afterward, the Syrians searched the groves in the area for the culprits.

'Bayrut Martyrs' Claim Attacks Against Syrians
NC2602064289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The Bayrut Martyrs Battalion announced this morning that it carried out two bombing operations against the Syrian occupation forces at dawn today. The first attack took place behind the Arab University, near the engineering department, and the second occurred near 'Abd al-Nasir mosque in Corniche al-Mara'ah [in West Beirut].

Two Explosions Target Syrians in West Beirut
NC0103072289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut are still the target of bombings, with two explosions taking place there last night, one in Saqiyat al-Janzir and the other on the Al-Zahra' Hospital traffic circle in Al-Janah. A caller speaking on behalf of the Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces told our radio that his organization is responsible for both explosions. In the south, Israeli gunboats were seen cruising off the shore between Al-Awwali and Al-Sarafand last night.

PFLP Claims 27 Feb Attack Against SLA
NC2802090889 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 28 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash has claimed responsibility for an attack on the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army in which two SLA troops were killed and two others wounded. In a statement issued here late Monday, the PFLP said its commando unit ambushed and attacked an SLA patrol using automatic weapons, anti-tank rockets and grenades north of the Israeli-imposed "security zone" sector of Jazzin in southern Lebanon.

"The commando unit returned to its base successfully, as PFLP engineers were laying mines along the road used by the SLA, where the two pro-Israeli militia vehicles were blown up." [passage omitted]

SLA Kills Member of 'Armed Group' in South
NC2802100189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A clash took place between a patrol for the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and an armed group in Al-Rayhan this morning. A member of the armed group was killed in the clash, after which the SLA searched the area.

Afghanistan

2 Army Pilots, 200 Soldiers Defect to Rebels

BK0103140689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 1 (AFP)—Some 200 Afghan soldiers defected to the resistance in the eastern Province of Nangarhar Wednesday [1 March], rebel sources here said.

The soldiers had been based at the Behsud district headquarters eight kilometres (five miles) east of the city of Jalalabad, which has been under siege by the mujahidin for the past two weeks.

On Tuesday two Afghan Army pilots defected with two helicopters in Kapisa Province northeast of Kabul, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said. The type of helicopters was not known.

The reports could not be independently confirmed. Conflicting reports are often issued about the war situation inside Afghanistan.

More than 2,000 Afghan militiamen defected and joined the mujahidin in northern Takhar Province a day after the Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15, several sources have said.

'Fierce Fighting' Reported in 6 Provinces

BK0103154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting is going on in at least six provinces of the country. The Afghan mujahidin captured 170 soldiers of the Kabul regime along with a large quantity of weapons in Parvan Province. Fierce fighting is going on in the Salang area of the province. In Baghlan Province, the mujahidin captured two posts at (Peshakh) area.

In Kabul, the mujahidin attacked posts around Shakar Darreh, during which 50 soldiers of the Kabul regime surrendered to the mujahidin. Barricades have been set up on Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

Attacks were carried out on posts south of Khowst in Paktia. The mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on the security posts around Qandahar airport in Qandahar Province and on the headquarters of the 15th Division. A transport plane proceeding to (Dorwaz) with supplies from Qandahar was shot down.

Two pilots defected to the mujahidin along with their helicopters in Kapisa.

Mujahidin Claim Indian Pilots Assisting Kabul

BK0103023489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin claim that India sent a group of its Air Force pilots and technical experts to Kabul to support the faltering Kabul regime. The AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, quoting mujahidin commanders, said that Indian pilots were flying planes which bombed mujahidin positions in Khowst late last month.

Interim Government Requests UN Representation

LD2802192789 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 28, IRNA—The president of the interim government of Afghanistan, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi has asked the United Nations secretary general to grant representation to the interim government of Afghanistan at the United Nations, according to Afghan sources in London.

AFGHAN AGENCY PRESS (AAP), monitored here Monday, reported that Mojaddedi, who was addressing a press conference prior to the concluding session of the Afghan shura at the hajj complex in Islamabad today, whilst demanding U.N. recognition for his interim government, also appealed to the Muslim countries and the Third World for their recognition.

Regarding the composition of the interim cabinet, Mojaddedi said that with accordance to the decision of the 14-member special commission, the National Liberation Front and Etehad-e Eslami have decided to retain the ministries of health and communication respectively, according to the AAP report.

He is reported by AAP to have also said that the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami with the third highest vote, has meanwhile opted for the ministries of defence, scientific research and agriculture, designated for the party with the fourth highest vote.

He brushed aside the idea of the Pakistan-based mujahidin sharing power with the Soviet installed Kabul regime, but made no mention of giving any portfolios to the Iran-based 8-group coalition which controls several large tracts of Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, Mojaddedi had resigned in protest from the chairmanship of the 7-party alliance, after some groups refused to honour their accord with the Iran-based coalition which were promised 100 of 500 plus seats of the shura.

In its report, AAP also spoke of a call made by the mujahidin on Afghan intellectuals, scholars and technocrats living abroad, to return home and help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Mojaddedi Notes Priority To Unite Mujahidin

PM0103101589 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Feb 89 p 5

[Interview with Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, "first elected president of Muslim Afghanistan," by Muhammad Mahjub—place, date not given]

[Text] [Mahjub] How were you elected head of state?

[Mojaddedi] I do not know how I secured all those votes, because I was not present in the council during the voting. Despite that I won 174 votes. Shaykh 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf obtained 173 votes and became prime minister.

[Mahjub] What are your main priorities?

[Mojaddedi] After the government is formed and within a month we will enter Afghanistan. Among our priorities is strengthening unity in the Afghan jihad ranks. The important thing is to get rid of the agent government by toppling it and begin to rebuild Afghanistan.

[Mahjub] What about the government formation?

[Mojaddedi] The number of ministers will be in the 28-30 range. The 14-man committee agreed that the head of state's party and the prime minister's party would each be represented by one minister, and that each of the other parties would be allocated two or three ministries. As for me, I have been allocated the health ministry. Prime Minister 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf has been allocated the transport ministry.

[Mahjub] Will the eight Iran-based parties participate in the new government?

[Mojaddedi] We still do not know. They have returned to Iran. We will keep some ministerial positions, two ministries in fact, for them, and I hope they will accept this.

[Mahjub] Has it been agreed to allocate a ministry for the education of girls?

[Mojaddedi] No. But an agreement has been reached on one ministry called generally the education ministry, to be tasked with the education affairs of both girls and boys.

[Mahjub] When will the shura council elections begin?

[Mojaddedi] Within 8 months.

[Mahjub] Does this mean that the provisional government's term is 8 months.

[Mojaddedi] No. It is a 1-year term.

[Mahjub] Is that period of time sufficient to topple the Najibullah government and hold the permanent shura council elections?

[Mojaddedi] The agent government is most likely to be toppled quickly. Then we will proceed with the elections.

[Mahjub] What about the constitution of Muslim Afghanistan?

[Mojaddedi] We have completed a set of decrees for organizing the elections. As for the constitution, that needs time. This is why there are decrees regulating cabinet work and defining ministerial powers. When the constitution is completed, it will be presented to the elected shura for endorsement. I expect that we will be able to liberate Kabul and hold the permanent shura election in less than a year.

[Mahjub] No one from the eight parties or from northern Afghanistan took part in the shura meetings. Do you expect this to be a source of trouble in the future?

[Mojaddedi] I do not think so. The overwhelming majority of the tribes based in northern Afghanistan have a profound respect for me. When they know that I have been elected president of Afghanistan, they will not stir up any problems. Furthermore, the Afghan brothers based in Iran will not be a source of trouble because I have always defended their rights.

[Mahjub] On what basis do you make these assumptions?

[Mojaddedi] In Afghanistan our family goes back 1,400 years. That family has always served the Afghan people, the Muslims, and Islam—both during the wars against the English, when my grandfather, father, and uncle led the jihad battles against them, and during our struggle against the Russians since 1953. I have struggled for 35 years. That jihad has secured the people's confidence for us. This is why my election as president is acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people.

[Mahjub] And those based in Iran?

[Mojaddedi] I went to those people, spoke to them, and agreed to allocate them 100 seats in the shura council. But some brothers did not accept that. I have defended their rights, and they know and appreciate that.

[Mahjub] Some say that Shaykh Mojaddedi sympathizes with the eight Iran-based parties.

[Mojaddedi] Shaykh Mojaddedi does not look down. He looks ahead... to the future. The Iran-based organizations have their own mujahidin in the central areas, and if we do not satisfy them with something there will be internal wars. Brother, I am looking at the future and I have a lot of struggle experience. The brothers know this.

[Mahjub] Do you believe that this answer will convince other?

[Mojaddedi] Yes, God willing. You know that no one but I could secure so much support in the presence of the seven leaders. Praise be to God for that success.

[Mahjub] Will the Muslim state of Afghanistan be based on party pluralism?

[Mojaddedi] Nothing has been decided in this regard. The ulema will decide on this. I believe there is no partisanship in Islam.

[Mahjub] Will you dissolve your party?

[Mojaddedi] Excuse me, brother, it is now 1 am and I am very tired.

[Mahjub] What is your message to the Afghan people?

[Mojaddedi] Via 'UKAZ I call on the Afghan people to unite their ranks in order to get rid of the agent Kabul government and establish in Afghanistan an Islamic government in its true meaning. I pray to God to help the brothers understand that Muslims are forbidden to attack Muslim lives, property, and honor. I call on the Afghan people to adhere to God's book and the Sunnah of His Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

Milli Shura Issues Statement on Policy

LD0103094889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Statement issued by the Senate of the Milli Shura in Kabul on 28 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The beloved and proud country of Afghanistan, with its 5,000-year history, has undergone many experiences in good times and bad. What has not been eliminated and has survived is the Afghans' courage and bravery. Whenever our country has been threatened, all the inhabitants of this land have organized themselves as a single body and inflicted such serious blows on the enemy that it has made them forget for good any thought of occupying this country. Because of the conspiracies of our colonial enemies, Afghan brothers have been fighting against each other for exactly 10 years, and in this war they have shed each others blood.

In taking firm and solid steps during the past 2 years to eliminate the war and bloodshed and to bring peace to the country, the Republic of Afghanistan has discharged its mission, its historic responsibility, its Islamic duty, and its humanitarian duty. Since the national reconciliation policy was proclamation, the ground has been prepared for the removal of the causes of the war in our war-stricken country. A unilateral cease-fire was announced. Thousands of prisoners were released from jails.

The Grand Assembly was convened. The Constitution, as a national document guaranteeing genuine democracy in the country, was promulgated. The Grand Assembly legally elected the president. The parliament, which demonstrates the will of the people, was revived and began functioning on the basis of free elections after 15 years. And the coalition government was formed as a transitional means for national reconciliation.

When the law on political parties was passed, political parties with their policy concepts and various outlooks were created and started operating. The Constitutional Council was created for the first time in the country's history. After several years of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Geneva accords were signed, and the United States and the Soviet Union signed these accords as guarantors. The Soviet forces, regarded by the warmongering opposition as the principal cause of the internal war, returned to their country in accordance with the agreed timetable embodied in the Geneva accords.

Specific measures were taken for the return and rehabilitation of refugees living outside the country, and then international assistance was requested.

Direct and indirect contacts were established with commanders and leaders of the opposition inside and outside the country, and meetings and contacts were made with the ex-king, former high-ranking officials and well-known personalities living outside the country. At the international level the Republic of Afghanistan called for an international conference to be convened under the direct leadership of the UN secretary general, to determine the permanent neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan and to guarantee non-interference in Afghan affairs. In short, the responsibility of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan was earnestly and sincerely accomplished in accordance with the values of the sacred religion of Islam.

Hopeful Afghans in exile far away from their country waited in Pakistan and Iran for a reply from the chieftains of the alliance of seven and alliance of eight. Regrettably, however, this desire was not fullfilled. In addition, armed fighting escalated in the cities. Lethal modern weapons flooded into the country and by creating barriers along the public highways they confronted the people with unbearable difficulities.

They have intensified hostile propaganda via the Western media in order to introduce psychological tensions. Contrary to the Geneva accords, Pakistan, the United States, and their allies have intensified training and infiltration of armed bands into the country, together with foreign military advisers. Pakistani militias, wearing Afghan clothing, entered the country. Pakistani military forces were stationed along the country's borders, particularly the eastern and southeastern borders. In order to impose a favored and puppet government, Pakistan and the United States created the unstable so-called shura in Rawalpindi. For a short time a serious threat was directed at the political independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country by shameless interference contrary to the Geneva accords.

In view of these facts, esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, announced the state of emergency in the country in accordance with the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, with the help of Almighty God and relying on the courageous people of Afghanistan in accordance with the provision of Paragraph 11, Article 75, and Article 143 of the Constitution. The Supreme Defense Council of the homeland, consisting of outstanding government personalities, was formed and the laws on the state of emergency and the Supreme Defense Council of the homeland were endorsed.

We senators of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, as elders, chiefs and representatives of the tribes and fraternal nationalities of the Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Baluch, Uzbek, Turkmen, Nuristani, and other nationalities and representatives all strata and social and political organizations, in view of the explanation express our unreserved support for the current policy of the Republic of Afghanistan. Success comes from God.

Kabul Reports Military Operations 27-28 Feb

LD2802190789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] As a result of internecine clashes between extremist groups and as a result of Armed Forces clearing-up operations in some parts of the country, a number of Pakistani-backed criminals were killed and wounded during the past 24 hours and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized.

A responsible source of the military authorities described the combat situation during the past 24 hours to the military section of BAKHTAR.

Nangarhar: As a result of heavy weapons fire by criminal extremists on security posts and residential areas in Jalalabad city and Rudjan and (Haska Mena) districts, five civilians were killed and one was wounded.

Khowst: As a result of an armed extremist band's attack on Khowst city and Jaji Meydan one child was wounded in Khowst city.

Qandahar: During an Armed Forces clearing-up operation at the (Deh Khaja) area, 12 anti-vehicle mines, 12 anti-personnel mines, 5 boxes of DShK ammunition and 3 rounds of surface-to-surface missiles were seized by the Armed Forces. In the course of the operation 5 extremists were killed and 1 mortar, 11 rifles, 2 Chinese machineguns and a number of warmongering terrorist hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of fierce clashes between members of the Mahaz and Harakat groups in Daman District, Qandahar Province, 11 people from both sides, including 2 Arab advisors, were killed and 3 were wounded.

Baghlan: As a result of clashes between the Armed Forces and warmongering extremists along the Khenjan-Do Shakh road, two professional terrorists were killed and one light machinegun and two Kalashnikovs were seized.

BAKHTAR on Opposition Interim Government

LD0103141689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 28, BAKHTAR—Under the pressure of the Pakistani militarymen and after 13 days of controversial talks, disputes, boycotts and warnings the consultative council of the opposition formed their so-called interim government in Rawalpindi recently.

On the other day that government was opposed and criticised by all the political forces inside the country as well as opposition commanders, opposition stationed in Iran, some leaders of the seven alliance included in the said interim government, Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan assessed it void of any authority.

The question arising here lies in this fact that why Pakistan through creating this formation which resembles as a comic and cartoon like government offers it to the political scene.

First it must be said here that after the complete return of the Soviet limited military contingents back home positive political conditions and grounds for the insurance of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan are provided. Under this fact no ground for Pakistan pretext to violate Geneva accords, holding of opposition offices, camps and military training centres on the Pakistani territory remains.

Through this so-called interim government Pakistan intends to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan on one hand and to continue war here on the other.

India

New Delhi Denies Military Aid Given to Afghans

BK2802161689 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1515 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Referring to the reports appearing in Pakistan media alleging that India is sending advisers to bolster Afghan Government, Foreign [Ministry] New Delhi has asked our missions in Islamabad and Beijing to issue denials on the following lines:

"We are surprised to see reports in local media quoting Peshawar based AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY suggesting that Indian advisers have replaced Soviet advisers in Afghanistan following withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. Similar baseless allegations it maybe recalled, were also made in the past, as part of a disinformation exercise. It is unfortunate that despite our strong denials on all past occasions such false allegations continue to be made.

"India wishes to state that these allegations are false and unfounded. India has not been providing any military assistance whatsoever to Afghan Government. In keeping with our age-old links with the people of Afghanistan, India has only been participating in economic cooperation programmes in Afghanistan dedicated to welfare of common man."

Muslim Leader Barred From Visiting Bombay

BK2802054289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 28 (AFP)—A Moslem religious leader here who has endorsed the call to execute author Salman Rushdie has been barred from visiting Bombay where 12 people died last week in rioting over "The Satanic Verses".

News reports said Tuesday that the orders prohibiting the entry of Mawlana Syed Abdullah Bukhari, the chief priest of the biggest mosque here, were issued by Bombay Police Commissioner Vasant K. Saraf Monday.

The police notification, valid for two months, said Syed Bukhari's visit to Bombay and his speeches "are likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity or cause communal riots," the INDIAN EXPRESS and other newspapers said.

Syed Bukhari, who on Friday announced at his Jama Masjid mosque that he supported Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's appeal to kill Indian-born Mr. Rushdie, a British citizen, on the grounds that his latest novel blasphemed Islam, had said he would visit Bombay's violence-hit areas early next month.

Syed Bukhari had described the ayatollah's execution call as "an order of God" which needed to be carried out. On Tuesday, he could not be reached for comment but a family member said he had left the capital.

Twelve people were killed and more than 50 injured in police firing and street fighting over Mr. Rushdie's controversial book in the western metropolis of Bombay Friday.

The violence broke out during a general strike called by Moslem groups, including one led by Haji Mastan, a Moslem politician who was removed by the police from Bombay earlier. Mr. Mastan was subsequently denied entry into Pune and Solapur towns, also in western Maharashtra State of which Bombay is the capital.

"The Satanic Verses" has also led to violence in northern Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state where a teenager died and seven others were wounded in a bomb attack by suspected Moslem youths Monday.

India, home to some 100 million Moslems, was the first country to ban Mr. Rushdie's book, which has since been prohibited in several Moslem countries. But India's ruling Congress (I) Party has criticised the ayatollah's call to kill the British writer.

Kashmir Chief on Protest Against Rushdie's Book

BK0103032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, most of the shops and business establishments remained closed in Srinagar yesterday in protest against Salman Rushdie's book. Life remained normal in the city barring two incidents of stone throwing in Gowkarau and New Fateh Karau. Police resorted to tear gas and fired four rounds in the air to disperse the mob. Eight persons, including six policemen, were injured in the incident. Twenty-two miscreants have been arrested.

The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said the recent violence over the issue was not concerned with Islam, but aimed at politicizing the matter. Speaking in the state assembly, he asserted that the Jammu and Kashmir State is an integral part of India and will remain so. He said the issue of accession was settled in 1947 and those trying to raise it now are doing so to create uncertainty and instability in the state.

Assam Strike Continues To Disrupt 'Normal Life'

BK0103080989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] In Assam, normal life continues to be disrupted for the 2d day today in tribal-dominated areas of Brahmaputra valley following the 48-hour bundh [strike] called by the Plains Tribal Council. Reports reaching Guwahati say the bundh has affected life in Kokrajhar District, Udalgiri Subdivision, parts of Lalbari, Barpeta, and North Lakhimpur Districts. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Train services between the bundh-affected areas and the rest of the country remained suspended for the 2d day.

The first phase of the 199-hour bundh called by the All Bodo Students Union also began this morning. In view of the bundh, the state government has tightened security arrangements and the Army has been kept on alert to assist the administration.

Home Minister Notes Reports of Arms Smuggling

BK2702093789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha was assured today that the security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] have been alerted to ensure maximum vigil on the border and to guard vital installations in the state. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told the house that this action has been

taken following reports that the so-called J&K Liberation Front plans to induct a large quantity of arms and ammunition into the valley for sabotage activities.

In a written reply, he said there were also reports that Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were imparting training to the youth of Kashmir region. He said consorted action by security forces led to the arrest of some youths and they had confirmed these report during interrogation. He said the state police has arrested so far 97 persons, who had received training across the border. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and explosive material were recovered from them.

The minister assured the house that the security agencies are making every effort to apprehend the remaining trained youths and arms and ammunition, which had infiltrated into the valley from across the border. Mr Buta Singh said the state government has opened some new police posts in the border region of the Kashmir valley to further step up the drive against illegal crossings. Night curfew has also been imposed along a 2 km belt of the line of control in the Kashmir valley, he added.

Editorial Criticizes Bush Policy on Afghanistan

BK2702114389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Bush Breaks Afghan Accord"]

[Text] US President George Bush's Afghan policy is eventually taking shape. Although US Secretary of State James Baker says that US "goals in Afghanistan will be no different" from the Reagan Administration, President Bush's recent decision to continue supplying the Afghan rebels with military aid as long as the Najibullah Government remains in power amounts to changing the so-called "positive symmetry" into a negative one. As is commonly known, the Geneva talks held under the UN auspices since June 1982 had got bogged down over US demands for "symmetry".

Ultimately both US and the Soviet Union agreed to "positive symmetry"; that is, each side agreed to cut off arms supplies but retained the right to resume them if the other side reneged on the deal. Few Western analysts were ready to accept the prospect of a Soviet pullout. Some of them even made grim predictions of Afghanistan becoming another Soviet Republic. Even when the Geneva accords were signed, scepticism was aired regarding Moscow's intention to abide by the provisions of the accords.

Now that the last Soviet military contingent has left Afghanistan, the US Administration is arguing that the Soviets have left behind large amounts of military hardware that make continued support for rebel forces necessary. Till yesterday, Washington's goal was the total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Now that the Mujahideen's ambition of riding into Kabul has not been realised, the US goal in effect is to hasten the collapse of the Najibullah regime. President Bush has now reserved the right to provide arms to the rebel forces, thereby reneging on Washington's earlier commitments. The US has also arrogated to itself the right to provide covert arms shipment to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebel bands in Angola.

In other words, the "positive symmetry" no longer holds good. It is in this context that Moscow's warning to Islamabad and other powers to "keep their hands off" has to be viewed. The Soviets have carried out their commitments under the Geneva accords, but they also have some towards the Afghan Government. Moreover, the Soviets have a record of not letting down their friends. The Pakistani military rulers had a vested interest in keeping the Afghan issue alive. Even for the new Pakistani Government, Afghanistan is too important to be left to the Afghans themselves. If one side is bent on flouting the accords and if Mr Bush is determined to provide arms support to the Mujahideen, it will be held responsible for further bloodletting and a prolonged civil war. Mr Bush's insistence on removing the Kabul regime creates a dangerous precedent.

Dr Najibullah has expressed his Government's readiness to accept a broadbased, workable formula for sharing power. New Delhi also has a significant role to play. In fact Afghanistan has always occupied a high-priority position in India's foreign policy. New Delhi has all along been engaged in behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity with a view to resolving the Afghan tangle. India can lend a hand to help the UN in the emergency airlift of food and other vital supplies to Kabul.

Prebudget Economic Survey Presented in Parliament

BK2402093989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The prebudget economic survey for 1988-89 presented in Parliament today says that the economy has recorded high growth during the year after recovering quickly from the adverse effects of drought experienced during the previous year. The annual inflation rate which had exceeded 10 percent at the end of March last year had been brought down to around 5 percent by January this year. Agricultural production is likely to increase by over 17 percent, while food grain production may exceed the target of 166 million [metric] tons.

On the external front, export growth was over 24 percent up to December last in rupee terms. The economic survey however cautions against increasing trade deficit. According to the survey, the difficult balance of payment situation and continuing strain on public finance have been the two major challenges of economic management in the current financial year. The survey observes that relative price stability and the strong growth performance in 1988-89, which is expected to yield a GDP [gross domestic product] growth rate of over 9 percent have to be seen in the context of severe drought in the

preceding year. These 2 years have demonstrated certain basic strength in the economy. The first is the resilience of the economy despite severe weather stress, and the second is the sustained growth performance in industry and infrastructure.

During 1988-89, industrial production recorded a strong growth from the start of the year, and the growth rate was over 9 percent up to November last. High industrial growth for the 5th year in succession reflects the positive effects of an ongoing process of industrial policy reforms. The industrial growth during the current year has also been supported by the good performance of key infrastructure sectors, such as coal, steel, cement, fertilizers, railways, and power generation. The excellent performance of industry, advances in policy reforms, and fresh fiscal concessions extended during the year have been reflected in a buoyant stock market. The virtual stagnation of employment growth in the organized sector and the increasing incidences of industrial sickness are however continuing to cause concern.

The survey observes that despite the strong inflationary pressures, which were generated by the setback to agriculture in 1987-88, the inflation rate last year was contained at 10.6 percent as compared to 21 percent recorded during the major drought year of 1979-80. Significantly, these inflationary pressures were also not allowed to spill over to the current year as is usually the case in most postdrought years. This is mainly due to timely introduction of a series of anti-inflationary measures during the previous year.

On the supply side, the government ensured adequate availability of food grains and other essential commodities through a vastly expanded public distribution system, the various employment programs, and relief operations. A little over 2 million tons of food grains were imported in order to maintain adequate food security. Good rain and a bumper kharif [autumn crop] harvest have considerably improved the availability of food grain. The position is expected to improve further with the arrival of good rabi [spring crop] harvest after March this year. With both agricultural and industrial production rising sharply to meet the surge in demand, the rate of inflation is likely to remain moderate.

The survey draws attention to the need for more effective action to tackle the linked problems of the balance of payment deficit and budgetary imbalances in order to ensure strong noninflationary growth in the eighth plan.

The survey underlines the need for an improvement in the budgetary deficits of the central and state governments as well as increased surplus generation by public sectors enterprises. The survey says it is crucial to sustain the higher rate of growth in agriculture expected during the current year. Power generation must be given due importance. The survey emphasizes that for elimination of poverty, economic policy must be oriented toward productive employment generation.

New National Budget Presented to Lok Sabha

BK2802150989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The general budget for 1989-90 contains several initiatives for poverty removal, the major one among them being Nehru employment program. The anti-poverty program will ensure fuller employment to at least one member of each family living below the poverty line. Presenting the budget in the Lok Sabha today, the finance minister, Mr Chavan, announced a number of steps to promote agriculture, small and village industries, and continuation of the existing programs of self-employment and wage employment.

The allocation for the central plan is up by 20 percent. It will be 34,446 crores rupees against the current year's outlay of 28,715 crore rupees. The overall deficit for next year at the existing rate of taxation is estimated at 8,240 crore rupees. The budget proposes more central assistance to states, fiscal incentives for industrial growth, decontrol of cement and aluminium, benefits to pensioners, relief on family pensions, and new saving schemes for retiring government employees.

The finance minister told the house that maximum resources are being made available for plan development. Central assistance for states and union territory plans is expected to be 10,850 crore rupees against the current year's allocation of 9,414 crore rupees. Total transfers from the Center to the states during the 1989-90 will be 30,974 crore rupees as against 27,485 crores in the previous year.

Here are the other salient features of the budget: 5 percent tax cut for income up to 25,000 rupees [per year]; surcharge of 8 percent on higher income [more than 50,000 rupees per year] from next year for a new rural employment program; interest on crop loans reduced to 12 percent; two new saving schemes launched; steel, aluminium, and newsprint to cost more; TV, radio, computers, and watches become dearer; smokers and pan masala [betel leaves and betel nuts] chewers to pay more; liquor too not spared; milk powder, condensed milk, and tinned food become cheaper; domestic air travellers to pay more; higher tax on foreign travel; expenditure tax doubled to 20 percent; life-saving drugs, raw silk, sodium vapor lamps, and paper boards to cost less; matches to cost more; substantial concessions to capital goods, food processing, poultry, and jute industries.

Parliament Told About Cause of Satellite Failure

BK2802092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The failure analysis committee on the unsuccessful mission of ASLV-2D [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] has said that the mission failed [on 13 July 1988] due to the break up of the upper portion of the vehicle 50.4 seconds after liftoff. The minister of state

for science and technology and space, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today that the expert review panel is also independently examining all the data to find the exact cause of the ASLV failure. He said the findings of the expert panel are still awaited.

Iran

AL-MUSTAQBAL Interviews Mohtashemi

JN2602111889 Paris AL-MUSTAQABAL in Arabic 25 Feb 89 pp 26-28

[By As'ad Haydar]

[Text] I first became acquainted with 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the Iranian deputy prime minister and interior minister, in the French town (Nouvel-Le Chateau) during Imam Khomeyni's stay there before he left for Iran. He was one of Khomeyni's closest aides. I met him once again in Qom after the victory of the Islamic revolution. I also met him in Damascus where he acted as his country's ambassador for many crucial years. I went to his office on the 18th story of a building located in Dr Fatemi Street, which was originally destined to be the headquarters of the Rastakhiz Party. After the revolution, this building became a complex housing several government ministries and departments.

Although many years have passed during which Mohtashemi had worked hard and assumed many responsibilities, I found him unchanged. He welcomed me in his office and the meeting lasted some 3 hours. He told me that he had cancelled all his appointments in order to answer all the questions from AL-MUSTAQBAL before leaving for Pakistan in this first interview with the Arab and foreign press. I held the following dialogue with him:

AL-MUSTAQBAL: We will begin with the usual question. How do you assess the Islamic revolution 10 years after it was launched?

Mohtashemi: Our revolution, people, and regime have experienced 10 difficult and arduous years. Not a single day has passed without hostile conspiracies and schemes being concocted against us, particularly by the United States. We had only two choices: either to confront these conspiracies, or to surrender. Our leadership inspired us with confidence and we opted for confrontation.

It goes without saying that we attained many objectives over the past 10 years, such as toppling the shah's regime, expelling the Americans who used to control our country, laying the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, freeing ourselves from subservience, and abrogating the CENTO pact. Abroad, we succeeded in dealing severe blows, such as defeating the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and undermining the prevailing concept that the Western world in general and the United States in particular had embedded in the mind of the ordinary citizen in the Middle East that independent governments are impossible to establish, that the peoples' victory can only succeed under the aegis of the superpowers, and that we cannot survive without depending on the big powers. We call the elimination of this concept from Iran as the export of the revolution. Our people's regaining their self-confidence, their rejection of what the others want, and their arming constitute an exceptional step, one of its most prominent manifestations being the legislative elections in the midst of the missiles war.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: We will use a metaphor here. It is being said that like the Soviet Union at the onset of the revolution, you are now seeking a formula to export the revolution. How can you export this revolution and establish good relations with neighbor countries?

Mohtashemi: Exporting the revolution has been a spontaneous thing. We never thought to export the revolution by force. You must not forget that most of the foreign media are against us. Our actions and programs within the country are the material for exporting the revolution. No wall can prevent the revolution from spreading elsewhere.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It has been noted that reconstruction dictates a halt in the export of the revolution, directing attention to domestic issues. What do you think of this?

Mohtashemi: I prefer not to go into minute details. Let us first set a general framework and then you will know what happened and what will happen.

We believe that the revolution realized 80 percent of its goals. What does it require from now on? Will it retain its principle of neither East nor West? Or will it, in the next stage—the stage of reconstruction and building—discard these principles and affiliate itself with the West in order to receive its technology and with the East in order to get aid?

I speak openly. Through the media you can hear stories concerning the policy of borrowing, the advent of foreign and multi-national companies and foreign experts to Iran to contribute toward reconstructing the country. However, so long as the revolution is there and the people are rallying round it, it will not allow any group or person to move in this direction. So long as this revolution exists, it will not allow foreign feet to tread on our soil again.

You can set your mind at ease. The imam is a personality of a very special type; no other personality can move contrary to his policies. The imam declared the principles of the revolution and the people agreed to them. If the people hear such news, they get angry. What would happen if they are implemented?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is the war between Iran and Iraq over? And is there a danger of its renewal?

Mohtashemi: We used to believe that Saddam did not want peace because the Americans do not want reconciliation. The Americans have a deeply rooted enmity for Iran. We believe that the United States does not want peace in the region. However, if the world decides to implement Resolution 598, so be it. If the world does not implement Resolution 598, then we would not be the ones who started the war. We are completely ready for defense. The people, like the imam, had to gulp down the goblet of poison. They are ready to throw it up anytime in the event of war. I do not believe the Iraqi people will repeat this experience once again. They will not tolerate that.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Iran had many opportunities to stop the war and negotiate from a position of power. The first of these opportunities was during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The second was when the battle of Khorramshahr [Mohammerah] was over. And the third was when your forces were in Al-Faw. Why did you not grasp the appropriate opportunity yet accepted negotiations from a position of weakness while your forces were withdrawing?

Mohtashemi: We were following a different course and logic which said that the aggressor should be punished because not punishing it would lead to renewed aggression. This logic has been accepted throughout history. It was executed during World War II. Unfortunately, the world did not accept this logic as far as we were concerned. Therefore, our acceptance of Resolution 598 and gulping down the goblet of poison came as a result of the requirements and circumstances of the general interest.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Iran seems to need $100 billion for reconstruction. Will you resort to loans from abroad to speed up the process?

Mohtashemi: There are two opinions on this. The first says that the country should be reconstructed quickly. If we want to do that, we will not be able to do so alone, either from the financial or technological point of view. We will be forced to depend on foreign countries. The second opinion says: There is no need to hurry the reconstruction of the country. Our political and economic independence are more valuable to us than achieving quick reconstruction under a foreign hand. This second logic is welcomed by the imam and the people alike. We will depend on ourselves and our national resources. We will not reach out to the outside. Those who used to suggest we borrow from abroad have become isolated.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You announced that you are opening the doors for party work and have set conditions for this work. Thirty-six parties and societies have applied to the authorities seeking legitimacy. What will be the framework of these parties' activities in the future?

Mohtashemi: The activities of parties and societies will fall under the framework of the Constitution and the laws in force. The parties and organizations that have agreed to this have stepped forward and submitted their applications. Once the pertinent approval is secured, they can carry out their partisan activities. There are no specified limits to these activities other than those recognized throughout the world. These limits are: The parties must not be affiliated with or linked to external forces or elements, they must not advocate ideas calling for the downfall of the regime or harbor intentions toward that end, and finally they must not form or establish armed movements.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: If Mehdi Bazargan and his party were granted a legal permit to carry out activities, would he and his party members be allowed to run for parliamentary and presidential elections?

Mohtashemi: Naturally, the forces that will be authorized can nominate their candidates for election. Bazargan will be provided with the well-known legal facilities in this regard.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It has been said that a large-scale execution campaign was carried out in Iran. Is this true? If true, why was it carried out?

Mohtashemi: The media campaigns against us, along with the campaigns launched by our enemies, are extremely formidable. However, as regards this very issue, there is something called punishment and reward. And this principle is well known throughout the world. In some countries, the death sentence is in force, while in others it is not. As for us, the shari'ah verdict is clear. There are certain crimes punishable by death. In accordance with the law, any group of persons or party which uses arms and kills individuals is punishable by death. Hence, it is natural that death should be the punishment of the monafeqin (he means "Mojahedin-e Khalq") who perpetrated these crimes. All the rumors circulated were about those executed in the "Mersad Operations" (the Bakhtaran [Kermanshah] battle). To settle this issue, I would like to say that all those who were arrested or joined the monafeqin were executed. They declared war on the people. They killed people and finally they were killed.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: So, the executions were not carried out to serve as a form of warning given to future parties which will be legalized?

Mohtashemi: No.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You personally are being subjected to a large-scale campaign accusing you of leading the extremist current. It is even said that you personally head the organ in charge of terrorist operations carried out abroad.

Mohtashemi: (After prolonged laughter) I want your personal judgment. Can I, the good guy, be that person? What is important is that these are tendencious rumors that basically seek to strike at popular figures in our country and project a terrifying picture. The foreigner

has a plan in this regard. They choose one of the revolution figures and launch a campaign against that figure. Sometimes they focus on the commander of the [Islamic] Revolution Guards Corps. Other times, they focus on Haj Rafiqdust (he was the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps minister; he then became adviser for defense affairs to Hashemi-Rafsanjani). After a while, they focus their campaign on Karrubi (Majlis deputy speaker). All these campaigns show the confusion plaguing them. Now, they have directed their campaigns against me. The target is not my person. They actually seek to inflict harm on both the revolution and Iran. And finally, of course I do not deny that I am a staunch defender of the rights of oppressed peoples.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You are well acquainted with Lebanon and its problems since you were Iran's ambassador to Syria. How do you view the future of Lebanon and a solution to its dilemma?

Mohtashemi: Only God Almighty knows what Lebanon's future will be. One can predict the future of other countries. The problem in Lebanon is that there are too many players. If we compare the Lebanese arena to a chess board, we find that there are too many pawns and players. Every party moves its pawns. There is also the international dimension including the United States, France, and other countries. Then there is the regional dimension, not to mention the local dimension with all the Lebanese parties and forces. The major problem is that the parties do not represent Lebanon's interests. They reflect the contradictions of outside forces.

For all these reasons, it is very difficult to attain a final solution. This can be achieved only if we assume that one of the parties on the domestic level succeeds in controlling the game and removes the other parties from the game. This is difficult.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: In your opinion, can an Islamic republic be established in Lebanon, taking into consideration that approximately half the population is Christians?

Mohtashemi: Do you want me to state what I wish?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: There is a difference between wishes and reality?

Mohtashemi: The issue is not one that deals with the Lebanese people. The problem is with the parties. I and all other honest men want Lebanon to be governed by the Lebanese people, and not by parties and forces affiliated with the big powers. We want a properly formed parliament that the Lebanese people will elect freely. Imagine that the Lebanese are forced to accept presidential elections by a parliament whose members are the grandfathers of the Lebanese youth!

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is it possible that the Hizballah Party in Lebanon might become a political party that will act within the framework of the Lebanese formula?

Mohtashemi: From what I know about Hizballah, it was established in accordance with the following Koranic concept: Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your Lord and cherisher; therefore, serve me and no others. [Koranic verse]. It was not established as a political party in the conventional sense of a party, or having conventional political objectives. From this premise, Hizballah succeeded in expanding very quickly in Lebanon. Its objectives had been the struggle against Israel, the United States, the multinational forces, and the Lebanese Forces. Hizballah operations in southern Lebanon have been based on these objectives.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But this party is finished now following the fighting against the Amal Movement. The image of the Shi'ites has been blackened.

Mohtashemi: Hizballah entered this war against its will. Hizballah never wanted to wage a war on the domestic front. It always sought to end wars among Muslims on the domestic level. The best proof of this is the camps war in which it played the role of mediator between the Amal and the Palestinians. It used to transport the wounded from Amal and the Palestinians in its cars. But when it is attacked, it is forced to defend itself.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why this campaign against you and the accusations that you are behind undermining the Amal Movement and Hizballah?

Mohtashemi: I do not care to reply to these lies and fairy tales. Those who accuse me of such a thing do not even deserve to be mentioned. I believe that those who say such things seek to get closer to their masters and to embellish their image. I say that we must fight Israel until the last Zionist usurper. This is also Hizballah's position. If they have anything better, let us hear what they have to say.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: At a certain point, you were forced to accept Resolution 598 and swallow the poison. Why do you not follow this through and accept that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] should also swallow the poison, that is, Resolution 242?

Mohtashemi: You have opened the door to a long discussion. However, there are two aspects:

1. The United Nations resolutions.

2. The question of Palestine.

On the Security Council resolutions, there are two types of resolutions. There is the resolution that legitimizes usurpation and cancels the people's rights. On the other hand, there is the international resolution which calls on two parties or countries to a conflict to reach a settlement based on an international resolution. This is Resolution 598. It calls on Iran and Iraq to sit at the negotiating table, exchange prisoners, and so on. As for the resolutions dealing with Palestine, they are unjust

resolutions that the United States always imposed on the world and not decided on by the Security Council. Resolutions 181, 242, and 425 are not resolutions that assist the people in regaining their rights. They came to legitimize the state of Israel and set its borders. These borders are not acceptable and any borders set for the state of Palestine will be on the land of Palestine. No Muslim or honest and free person can accept them.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: This is convincing talk. However, the Palestinian state of affairs and the international detente do not allow that. The Palestinian plan, even if many do not accept it, is a kind of transition from the absolute to the possible.

Mohtashemi: Once I speak from the point of view of the revolution and another time from the point of view of the parties. Iran has swallowed poison. I believe that we confronted a similar line of reasoning over the issue of overthrowing the shah and his regime. They told us that we have to accept the concept that the shah owns and does not govern because it is impossible to uproot this empire. This reasoning was rejected by the revolution. We believed that the shah's government was a usurper government which had to be uprooted.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: One again, and because we are discussing unemotional issues, we must confirm that there is a great difference between uprooting a usurper government and uprooting a state. The logic of the revolution may not accept Abu 'Ammar's logic, but the logic of the state could accept [that].

Mohtashemi: The state was declared through the positions of the Foreign Ministry and the officials in the government. Even if we do not recognize Israel's borders, we will accept any place the Palestinians choose for their state. We accept this realistic part and reject the part which is Israel.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: There is a great deal of talk about a bloodbath in Afghanistan. What do you think about that, especially as Iran is very interested in the situation in Afghanistan for many known reasons? What would be Iran's position if such a catastrophe takes place?

Mohtashemi: Both the Soviet Union and the United States are carrying out frenzied activity so that a bloodbath will take place in Afghanistan and the Muslims and mujahidin do not assume power. In this way, they would create a new Lebanon. However, through our cooperation with Pakistan and coordination with the two allies, we are seeking to remove all marginal disputes and hoping that this bloodbath will not take place. However, if the major enemies' plans are implemented and impact on our internal security, naturally we will not stand idle. Our security is linked to the security of Afghanistan.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is the future of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps? Will they be merged into the Army?

Mohtashemi: They are the arm of the revolution and the force which safeguards the values of the revolution. They are the watchful eye of the system. As for the Army and the other regular Armed Forces, they are the forces defending the borders and sovereignty against any foreign aggression.

Naturally, there is discussion of the necessity to merge related institutions such as the Ministry of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Ministry of Justice. The important thing is that we are turning our military forces into revolutionary forces in harmony with the developing republican system. In this area, we have started with the regular forces of the Interior Ministry such as the police and revolution committees. If the attempt succeeds, we would then move on to the Army and the Guards. The issue is not one of incorporating who with whom, but creating a revolutionary institution.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: There is talk about amending the Constitution, especially the article pertaining to the powers vested in the president of the Republic. What do you have to say about this?

Mohtashemi: There was talk about this issue. However, it has been settled and the amendment will not be effected.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It is noticeable that the Iranian officials are interested in the adjoining western Asia region. Within 1 week, the foreign affairs minister and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps minister visited Pakistan, the country you will visit next week. Are we to understand from this that Iran is pursuing a new political orientation?

Mohtashemi: My visit to Turkey falls within the framework of our general policy. Even our relations with the USSR are good and based on good- neighborliness. Our relations are also good with the new Pakistani Government.

As regards our relations with the states of the southern coast of the Persian Gulf, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consistently worked to establish the best of ties with them. However, the response of the other side to our efforts has regrettably not risen to the level expected.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: To be honest with you, I am not going to use the term "Persian Gulf". No, I am going to use the term "Arabian Gulf", as the issue here is a political one. When you say that advocating pan-Arabism is a mistake, then you must cease to adhere to the relics of Persian nationalism that prompt you to use the term "Persian Gulf". Why do you not use the term coined by Imam Khomeyni in (Nouvel Le Chateau); namely, the "Islamic Gulf"?

Mohtashemi: This Gulf is neither Persian nor Arab. It is an Islamic one. What happens is that the big powers force us to return to historical documents, and here we do not mean national fanaticism. We can return to the name coined by the imam and begin to use it.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas visited Tehran. Some differences, including the one pertaining to the release of Anis Naqqash, have surfaced. What is your opinion of your relations with France?

Mohtashemi: With regard to France and related issues, I would like to say that France has since the beginning sided with Iraq and Saddam (the Iraqi president) and granted refuge to the criminals, hypocrites, and royalists. The hands of all of these groups are stained with the people's blood. This has taken place while honorable persons like Anis Naqqash are being imprisoned for no reason other than their honorable and humanitarian position which they have taken in favor of Muslims on French territory. I believe that France and its socialist government have not abandoned their racist policies against the Third World.

The Lebanese and Iraqi people have had experience with France, their enemy. And here I am referring to the French Government, not the French people. We do not accept such treatment by the French. No ties of friendship can be established with us in this way. The French Government and people must review the past, reconsider their hostile positions vis-a-vis the honorable elements, and release them from French jails. If it fails to do so, France will face many difficulties and problems.

Mohtashemi Denies Executions

LD2802142589 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi today categorically denied a report by the Paris-based Arabic magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL quoting him as saying "political prisoners" in Iran had been executed.

"What the reporter of the magazine has attributed to me regarding alleged execution of prisoners is a production of his imaginations," Mohtashemi told IRNA in a telephone interview.

The magazine quoted the interior minister as saying that those who used weapons to kill people deserved to be executed and that "it is natural for the liars who commited such crimes to be executed."

But Mohtashemi said he only told the reporter that a large number of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) members had been killed and many others captured when they invaded western Iran last August.

But the correspondent had distorted his statements to his liking and linked them to alleged mass execution of monafeqin (hypocrites) in Iranian prisons, he said. "As a matter of fact," Mohtashemi said, "the issue of prisoners was not brought up in the interview at all."

Ex-Majlis Deputy Kashani Released From Prison

LD2802100689 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—A former Majlis deputy Seyyed Ahmad Kashani has been released from prison after over two years of imprisonment, reported the English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its Tuesday issue.

Kashani, a deputy from the central cities of Natanz and Qamsar served at the Majlis in its first and second terms. He was arrested on November 5, 1986 on charges of treason, it added. He was put in jail on August 1987 charged with sowing discord among Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) by publishing and distributing pamphlets among their members.

Kashani is the son of Ayatollah Abol Qasem Kashani, one of the major figures in oil nationalization movement in Iran during 1950's, it added.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on Relations With UK

LD0103150489 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today voiced support for the Majlis' ultimatum to sever ties with Britain, and held the London government responsible for the Salman Rushdie plot.

"The government will break all diplomatic ties with Britain if it fails to meet the conditions set by the Majlis," Musavi warned. [passage omitted]

Premier Musavi, addressing a cabinet session, made it clear that Iran very well knows Britain's long-standing enmity towards Islam and the holy Koran. [passage omitted] "Imam Khomeyni's fatwah has served to awaken world Muslims and to help them fathom the depth of the West's enmity towards Islam and the holy Koran," Musavi said.

Evidence suggests justice-lovers across the globe were gradually becoming aware of the depth of the devilish plot against the beliefs of one billion Muslims, said Musavi. There is more public awareness now that action against sacrilege has got nothing to do with freedom of speech and writing, he added.

The cabinet later heard reports on the outcome of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran and expressed hope that the exchange of messages

between Imam Khomeyni and Mikhail Gorbachev would pave the way for trading of religious, political, economic and cultural delegations between the two countries.

Commentary on Majlis Proposal on UK Ties
LD2802123689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. In its session today the Majlis ratified the proposal to sever diplomatic ties with Britain. The proposal, which was put forward by 100 deputies, is the first action taken by the Majlis to sever diplomatic relations with a foreign government.

During the post-revolution period, although the Islamic Republic of Iran has had political problems with some foreign governments, some of which involved o severing ties, it has so far never taken the first step to break off relations. Therefore, the action taken by the Majlis is a serious turning point in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic.

Establishing relations with other countries is a principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran, relations which, based on the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in each other's affairs, can have valuable results in safeguarding mutual interests and expansion of ties.

At present, the Islamic Republic has extensive diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with all countries which have, in practice, demonstrated their adherence to those principles of diplomatic relations. However, although severing ties is considered an extraordinary measure, the Islamic revolution has demonstrated that it does not want to have diplomatic relations at any cost, that it expects the values and ideals of the revolution to be respected by those governments that claim to be its friends.

The recent action of the London government, supporting the printing and publication of a book which in everybody's opinion is an insult to Islam, is tantamount to disregarding the most basic standards of relations between countries. The British Government has used freedom of speech as an excuse for slander. While according to British law insults to the Anglican Church merit prosecution, it shows a prejudicial reaction to Muslims' rights to react to a similar action, in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence.

Britain's pressure on the EC to recall the heads of their diplomatic missions in Tehran is not considered a friendly gesture and is an example of the country's age-old opposition toward Islam and Muslims. Hostile propaganda against the edict to punish the author of the book "The Satanic Verses," issued by Imam Khomeyni is not a confrontation with a particular country, but with the attack on Islam and Muslims. In this connection the suitable reaction of the Majlis to Britain's anti-Islamic activities is to issue a warning to governments planning to confront Islam and Muslims.

In accordance with the proposal ratified by the Majlis, the Foreign Ministry is dutybound to sever all diplomatic ties between the two countries if Britain does not apologize for her hostile and offensive action toward the Islamic revolution and Islam.

In any case, the background of the relations between Iran and Britain are cause enough for the Iranian nation to be extremely suspicious of the actions of the London government. The record of interference in Iran's internal affairs, taking part in the economic embargo after the Islamic revolution, supporting the Iraqi regime throughout the war, and supporting all of the United States' hostile positions vis-a-vis Iran are among the low points in Tehran-London relations. The British authorities should consider the record when making a decision, as they have expressed their willingness to improve relations.

The Islamic Majlis has given Britain 1 week to apologize. In view of the public belief that the book "The Satanic Verses" is insulting, the British Government can declare its disavowal [bara'at] and through a logical and rational action, by its explicit apology, it can eliminate the existing crisis. On the other hand, by holding to its position, which in view of this government's past records does not seem too farfetched, it can prepare the way for severing relations.

In that case—a move that would be interpreted as Britain's insistence to confront the Muslims and as its antagonism toward the sanctities of one billion Muslims—this action of the part of London would be considered a reactive move [harakat-e enfe'ali]. It would also prove this significant point: The author of this book is a hireling of colonialism who has used his pen against Muslims in the service of hegemonists. Such an action would also prove that the Islamic revolution is capable of defending its aspirations and Islamic standards and has the capability to safeguard its interests and the true religion of Islam.

Editorial on Khomeyni's View of Rushdie, Clergy
NC2802114289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Imam Khomeyni as Firm as Ever in Protecting Islam"]

[Text] Shockingly unprecedented reactions to the publication of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" triggered the Imam's pronouncements yesterday again. The message reaffirms the deep feelings that have been stirred by the publication of this book. The Imam never before has shown such strong reactions.

Although the great revolutionary leader has always shown the greatest patience even in serious conditions of the war, the reaction to this affair of the Rushdie book is a clear indication of the very unhappy consequence of a spiritual and cultural ferment caused by an alien and anti-Islamic view in the Rushdie book.

According to some reports, the Imam was shaken utterly when he read parts of the "Satanic" book. His most recent message is a clarification in jurisprudential terms of the reactions to the Salman Rushdie novel.

A part of his message took a historical perspective of cases such as this one and took up a position which defended the 'ulema role in preserving the purity of Islam. It said that they will never be aligned to classic capitalism.

The Imam also made it clear that defense of the 'ulema did not mean the entire body of 'ulema still within the theological centers disguised as religious people trying to destroy the revolution. On the other hand, the Imam said the pressures brought upon him by rigidly dogmatic 'ulema was as bad as the dangers coming from the enemies of Islam. In sum, the Imam's clarification centers on the rigidity and pretensions of such persons. All this is of course rooted in the discussions pertaining to the Salman Rushdie book.

Not even countries like Libya and Syria, both nations with major Muslim populations, have stirred to action over the publication of a book which slanders and defames the sanctities of the divinely appointed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], beloved of more than a billion Muslims throughout the world and for centuries in the past. In fact most Middle East countries, predominantly Muslim, have maintained a stony and shameful silence on the issue which should hurt them deeply and emotionally.

Another angle of Imam's message reflects on internal issues within the Iranian nation. By raising the issue of a former religious figure and a so-called 'Alim Shari'at-Madari, who helped coup attempt against Islamic Republic of Iran, the Imam appeared to be cautioning on the dangers of attempts made to support deviant movements in the country.

In the course of his message yesterday the Imam referred to accusations against officials who allegedly had leanings towards the Soviet Union or the U.S. and denounced such innuendos.

But the fact is that neither of the two political wings in Iran can shift responsibility saying the message is addressed not to one. In fact recently the Imam recognized both these groups when he called for a fusion and greater understanding between the two.

In effect the Imam in his message is addressing the Freedom Movement, the liberal wing led by Mehdi Bazargan, although they are not referred to directly in the message. Nevertheless taking into account that a mistake was made in giving key posts to them in the early days of the revolution it can well be concluded that the Imam is referring to the Freedom Movement.

Commentary on Muslim Unity Against West's Actions

NC0103094889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] In his exalted name. In the past few days, the world has witnessed extensive and widespread protests by Muslims in support of Imam Khomeyni's edict. In the light of this unprecedented protest movement against the anti-Islamic plots of world oppression, rarely seen among Muslims in the past century, the West views the future with dread and apprehension. The Islamic Republic of Iran did not expect 14 [as heard] countries of the EEC to take such a hasty step and recall their envoys. This is tantamount to defending the sacrilege of what Islam holds sacred and to challenging Muslims in an absolutely terrorist manner under the false name of freedom of expression.

However, with its support of Salman Rushdie's (?writings), the West proved that the penning and publishing of "The Satanic Verses" is part of a larger secret campaign by Zionist factions to blaspheme Islamic sanctities and turn Muslims against their own sanctities. The West launched this new campaign with the participation of the British Government and became complacent about its greatest contemporary rival, communism.

Following World War II, the West's increased anxiety regarding the threat of Marxism seems to have been (?dispelled) at the moment by the failure of socialism, its need for an ideological review, and the retreat of the Soviet Union from its previous position. Today, Western imperialism has positioned itself against the growing Islamic sentiments in the world. It is for this reason that it has given priority to anti-Islamic cultural propaganda campaigns, concentrating all its efforts on distorting and exploiting Muslim beliefs. However, apart from this fact, profaning islamic sanctities is a dangerous game which only the most naive politicians would attempt.

Alongside the extensive protests by Muslims in Islamic countries in support of the order for Salman Rushdie's execution, the solidarity and concurrence by Muslims in countries such as the United States, France, Norway, and Great Britain—who are not within the geographical boundaries of Islamic countries—are evidence of a massive wave of support, the repercussions of which had not been foreseen by the old colonialists, who now can only stand as stunned spectators and not even attempt to control this onslaught. [passage omitted]

What is important is that for many months world oppression had emphasized in its analyses that the post-war era would witness a decline in Islamic fundamentalism, a weakening in the Islamic movement worldwide. Therefore, a lesson should be learned from the popular protests of the Muslims and the support from the Islamic world. What has been tested and tried should not be tested further. The West should bear in mind that Muslims will never retreat in the face of blasphemy to their religious sanctities; neither will they ignore it. They are in total unity on this issue.

Reportage on Press Reaction to Majlis Decision

KEYHAN Cited on Proposal

LD2802125189 Tehran IRAN in English 1233 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Britain may prolong the crisis with Iran over THE SATANIC VERSES by opposing the views expressed in the book but condemning Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] against its British author, Salman Rushdie, KEYHAN wrote Tuesday.

"The Majlis has a mission to respond to Britain's different stands in whatever form they may appear and after studying them, show a firm reaction," it said.

"The paper commented on the possible British response to the Majlis decision Tuesday to give Britain a week to reconsider its stand against Iran or face a complete break in relations.

KEYHAN said Britain may also urge its European Community allies for support and to react against Iran's decision to break off relations or carry out terrorist acts and blame them on Iran.

Any action taken by Britain to justify its stand "is doomed to fail and would not discredit Iran's great cultural confrontation in defending the dignity of the Islamic world."

On the other hand if Britain did not try to justify itself and gave in to the Majlis demand, "then it could to an extent pave the way to repair its damaged reputation in the Islamic world."

"But the Islamic world would be the judge to see whether Britain's response has been acceptable or not."

IRNA Notes Editorials

LD0103075189 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR Wednesday [1 March] editorialized on the Tuesday decision of the Iranian Majlis giving a week's time to Britain to correct its stance towards the Islamic World and the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses".

Political analysts are of the opinion that in a bid to soften the opposition expressed by Muslims against the work, London may raise certain issues or state that it does not approve of its contents, said the article.

They also maintain that the proper stance adopted by the Majlis and the Iranian foreign minister towards the British Government, should not be affected by raising of side issues by London. It said Iran's tough stance will make London and other Western European countries think over their hostile measures against Iran.

Political analysts also state that the decision made against London should also be extended to West Germany and that the Iranian Government should take the initiative in this respect, said the paper, adding that such a measure would leave its impact on the stance of other Western countries.

ABRAR said it would be difficult for Britain to ignore its exports to Iran which stood at 250 million pounds in 1988. West Germany with three times as much of exports to Iran would also not bear the consequences of breaking relations with Iran so easily, it said.

Another daily, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said Britain can accept what the Majlis has asked of her or might resort to encouraging the European Community to adopt an even more severe attitude against Iran.

Other possibilities, according to the English-language daily, could be that London condemn the book and simultaneously denounce the religiously inspired order against its author or adopt "Israeli tactics: create violent incidents to gain the leverage of the negative anti-Iran media campaign to take in hand a pretext to sever ties."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL urged the Majlis to consider closely the instruments Britain has in hand and "be nimble enough to deal with every possibility accordingly if it (Majlis) wants to maintain the initiative in this diplomatic tug-of-war."

The other English daily, TEHRAN TIMES, said two scenarios may unfold in this connection. Either Iran-U.K. relations will be totally ruptured should London fail to mend the fences "through a logical condemnation of the anti-Islamic book" or London will "show an intellectual understanding by an affirmative response to Iran's demand."

The paper was against the former option because it said "great efforts" had been made and "ample time" spent to improve ties. "Such a severance will certainly not serve the national interests of the two countries."

It warned Britain that with the severance of ties, "West Germany and France which are still retaining their economic ties to Iran, might outmaneuver the U.K. by exploiting any new political parameter."

ETTELA'AT Condemns EC's 'Hasty Decision'

NC2802155289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Feb 89 p 18

[Commentary entitled "A Return to Retrogression"]

[Excerpts] In a hasty decision taken by 12 EEC members in the recall of their envoys from Tehran, the scenario of the new U.S. plot against the Islamic Republic entered a new phase.

The publication of the slanderous book "The Satanic Verses" by the inmates of "Buckingham" is yet another link in the chain of plots and artifices by the vehement opponents of the flourishing and proliferating Islamic revolution in the world. The incident has brought humiliation anew to seasoned British politicians. The fury of millions of Muslims in various countries tore off the mask from the repulsive face of world oppression to the extent that the mercenary writer had to express regret over his action to placate the mounting anti-oppression sentiments among Muslims.

The imam of the nation's decisive decree that Salman Rushdie is an apostate and the shedding of his blood is permitted—as retribution for the initiation of a politico-cultural trend, not as an order for the murder of an individual—has granted organization and clarity to the protests and demands of millions of Muslims. [passage omitted]

The EEC's hasty decision and the British Government's thoughtless measure in recalling its diplomats from Tehran has created a new set of circumstances, which the Islamic Republic of Iran will keep in mind in its demarcation of the parameters for its selection of friends and identification of foes. Our people will testify to the fact that the violation of Islamic sanctities, coupled with the U.S. and British conspiracies, prove that the Western policymakers have not yet understood Islam and keep testing the waters only to be pushed away. However, Iran will take a step forward this time and, after assessing which governments are its friends and which its foes, it will imbue its politico-cultural ties with greater clarity and meaning. [passage omitted]

The Muslim people are now asking: How is it that countries of the Eastern bloc, which are generally atheistic, have never permitted such blasphemy against the prophets of God, while the West, which professes to be religious, indulges in such acts of folly? Does the West still expect the revolutionary people to remain silent in the face of insults and aggression? Does the West expect Iran to assist in the release of its hostages in Lebanon? Does the West not understand that all kinds of threats and intimidations only serve to make Muslims more determined and steadfast in their firm and unfaltering position? Will the UK once again forget its "today" policy against the Islamic Republic "tomorrow" and once again desire friendship with Iran?

By the steps that they have taken, veteran British politicians have once again caused the British flag to be lowerd in Tehran and the dilution of British friendship with the Islamic Republic, quicker than ever before. The change in the policies and position of the West's political leaders in the past few days has confirmed that the only outcome of their reactionary political measures regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the acceleration of the Islamic revolution's progress and the identification of its friends and foes. This will naturally be the determining factor in all kinds of relations between Iran and the world.

Ambassadors in Madrid, Rome Recalled 28 Feb

LD2802210589 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28. IRNA—Iranian ambassadors in Madrid and Rome Hadi Soleymani-Pur and Hamid Abu Talebi respectively, left for Tehran Tuesday in response to the recalling of the 12-nation European Community's ambassadors heads of missions from Tehran.

After Imam Khomeyni decreed death penalty for Indian born British writer Salman Rushdie for his blasphemous work "The Satanic Verses" EC recalled its envoys from Tehran for "consultations."

Muslims around the world have supported the imam's fatwah and have condemned the book, vowing to carry out the sentence against the apostate on whose head hangs a 6 million dollar price.

Envoy to Stockholm Recalled to Tehran 27 Feb

LD2702232189 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Stockholm, Feb. 27, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Stockholm Mehdi Danesh Monfared [name as received] left for Tehran this morning following Sweden's recalling of its ambassador from the Islamic Republic.

Spearheaded by Britain, the 12-member European Community (EC) has [words indistinct] Tehran in protest to Imam Khomeyni's decreeing of divine justice for apostate Salman Rushdie who authored "The Satanic Verses." [passage omitted]

Daily Praises Khomeyni's Policy on USSR

LD2702220789 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—An evening newspaper today termed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit as the second major development in Tehran-Moscow ties since the delivery of Imam Khomeyni's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on January 4.

The Persian daily "ETTELA'AT" in its editorial hailed the change brought about by the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran's foreign policy and said the imam's historical decision is evidence of his in-depth understanding of international issues.

The imam's view of the neither-East-nor-West policy is clear from his terming as "big blunder" the Soviet Union's occupation of neighbouring Afghanistan, it added, recalling the founder of Islamic Republic's repeated calls for Russian withdrawal.

Moscow's arming of Iraq's Ba'thist regime was another reason for the imam's displeasure with Soviet foreign policy, it said. At the height of Iraqi missile attacks on Iran's residential areas last year, the imam had warned Soviet leaders against the adverse effects on mutual ties of Moscow's arms sale to Iraq, it noted. The imam has always endeavoured to correct Moscow's wrong policy so that the two neighbours could expand bilateral ties, it said.

Describing the awakening of the Muslim world as a "most important and determing" factor ETTELA'AT said "Iran in accordance with its Islamic principles, shoulders a heavy responsibility."

Muslim awakening is the principal issue in contemporary history as most world strategists agree, said the daily and advised the Soviets "to heed this conviction with wisdom and foresight."

As Moscow is well aware the U.S. hates to see Soviets cooperating with Islamic movements and would rather love to pit Moscow against the world of Islam, said ETTELA'AT and suggested that the Soviets better be cautious of pitfalls "in light of the West's open and long-standing enmity towards the USSR."

The daily lauded Moscow's rejection of Britain's plea for opposing the imam's fatwah for execution of apostate Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses" and said "it indicated the USSR's awareness of Western schemings."

Practically there are little or no difficulties for expansion of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Muslim world especially the Islamic Republic, "considering so many common interests and goals," it added.

As Imam Khomeyni had drawn Mikhail Gorbachev's attention in his message, "the only danger which might wreck this course is the Soviets falling into the West's snare," the daily cautioned, and called for removal of all obstacles blocking expansion of friendly ties between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union.

Daily Comments on Khomeyni-Shevardnadze Meeting
LD2802150289 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 28 Feb 89

["Press review: Reforming Soviets Better Than Ideologically Static Westerners"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT in its Tuesday issue reflected on Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran Saturday and messages exchanged between Imam Khomeyni and Mikhail Gorbachev as developments indicating that the Soviet leader has a more realistic world view than any of his predecessors. It said if "Mr. Gorbachev had not demonstrated a mentality substantially different from the stereotype convictions of his former colleagues he would not have received a message from Imam Khomeyni at all."

In the light of Shevardnadze's visit this week and its coinciding with the recalling from Tehran of ambassadors of the 12-nation European Community (EC), the daily commented that the West is likely to conclude that Iran is approaching the Soviets simply because it is distancing herself from the West.

But, it said, foreign personalities who know Imam Khomeyni better than others, know also well that the imam adheres to purely religious and spiritual values in his each and every act rather than be prompted by materialistic, political, or diplomatic considerations in their present-day senses.

The paper said "the more Mr. Gorbachev should manage to disengage himself from the tangle of dogmatic, fossilized and reactionary thinking of the materialists, communists and Marxists, and the more he can open the gates of his inquisitive mind and soul to facts and realities, the more just and the closer he will find himself to the ultimate reality. But the Westerners simply do not comprehend that far."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tehran Saturday for an official three-day visit carrying a message to Imam Khomeyni from Mikhail Gorbachev. During his stay in Tehran he had the honour of an audience with Imam Khomeyni, and also held talks with other iranian officials among them President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Premier Hoseyn Musavi and his counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Shevardnadze's memorable meeting with the leader of the Islamic revolution coincided with widespread and fervent anti-Iran propaganda in the Western media over the imam's just fatwah against Salman Rushdie who authored "The Satanic Verses," a thinly veiled attack on prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], which has since aroused Muslim sentiments worldwide.

Talks Reportedly Held on Purchase of Soviet Arms

TA2802184989 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] According to informed sources, for some time now secret talks have been going on between the USSR and the Islamic Republic for the purchase of weapons and military equipment from the Soviet Union. A delegation from the Islamic Republic even visited Moscow at the end of December to hold talks regarding the purchase of military hardware.

Border Exchanges With Turkey To Increase

LD2802174589 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Feb. 28, IRNA—A joint session of Iran-Turkey ministers here Monday night approved the reopening of the fourth border customs office in Aralik-Bouralan [name spelling as received] area. Bouralan is 60 kms north of Maku in West Azarbayjan Province and Aralik is the opposite area in Turkey's Van Province.

The agreement was reached between Turkish Communications and Transportation Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli and Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi.

Presently customs affairs are handled at the three customs offices in Serow, Bazargan and Razi and the reopening of the fourth in Aralik-Bouralan will further facilitate travel and trade exchanges between the two countries.

The Turkish minister who arrived here Monday in talks with Nabavi agreed in principle on creation of border markets besides the customs offices, establishment of flight services by small planes between the border provinces, dropping of tariff on border exchanges and of passports for merchants. The two countries share a 454 km borderline.

Nabavi said that according to a cabinet decision all border exchanges will be conducted in West Azarbayjan Province and the governor-general of the province is empowered with greater authority.

He added that the volume of trade between the two neighbouring provinces of Van and West Azarbayjan will be boosted to dls. 15 million annually.

Pakdemirli commenting on the agreements reached said that bureaucracy must be scraped at the customs points and added that Turkey is ready to reopen the Aralik check-point. The meeting was attended also by the officials of the two bordering provinces of Van and West Azarbayjan.

Border Trade Protocol Signed

LD0103102289 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Ankara, March 1, IRNA—A joint Tehran-Ankara protocol was signed in the Turkish border city of Van Tuesday night for trade exchange between Iranian and Turkish border provinces.

The protocol was signed by Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi and Turkish Communications and Transportation Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli.

The agreement came after an earlier meeting on Monday between the two ministers in Orumiyeh, the provincial capital of Iran's West Azarbayjan [passage omitted]

Mir-Salim, Pakistani Minister Meet in Tokyo

LD2502215989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Mir-Salim, a top adviser to our country's president, is in Tokyo to take part in the funeral of the late Emperor of Japan. At noon today he conferred with Shintaro Abe, secretary general of Japan's Liberal-Democratic Party.

Mr Mir-Salim also met separately with the Algerian parliamentary speaker and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Tokyo this afternoon.

KEYHAN Cited on Afghan Situation

LD2502214589 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—The Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin alliance was advised to honour its accord with the 8-party coalition in Iran and to form a government representing all mujahidin groups.

In its editorial today, the Persian daily KEYHAN noted the absence of notable mujahidin groups in the recently named interim government and said "it will not solve any problems but will rather create more paving way for foreign interference in Afghan internal affairs."

Afghanistan, it said is a multi-racial country with each group having its own rich culture and for this reason "no single ethnic group has ever been able to expand its zone of influence."

This very principle had in the past necessitated the formation of various military zones in Afghanistan, recalled the afternoon daily.

The Soviet aggression coupled with the West's efforts to have a foothold in Afghanistan as well as the complicated world political atmosphere had made "these various armed to the teeth military units turn on the invader and the puppet Kabul regime."

However, at the time, the Soviet military presence had united all heavily armed military units against the Red Army, "but" said the daily "at present, Moscow's military presence in Afghanistan or in other words, the factor which united Afghan ethnic groups no longer looms on the scene and neither the Kabul regime [phrase as received] is a serious military obstacle."

KEYHAN cautioned, that despite the changed atmosphere and its "potentially dangerous consequences" the 7-party alliance has formed a government of its own choice by-passing fellow strugglers."

"Is it advisable" it argued that a one-sided government could be feasible for a country which in all reality is "a huge military camp divided into separate power blocs" dominated by local commanders and mujahidin who have fought occupation forces for nine years.

It is obvious that only a government comprising all mujahidin factions would succeed in Afghanistan, said the daily and questioned the Peshawar group's logic of ignoring the Iran-based eight-party coalition which "constitutes the second largest fabric of Afghan society."

Although the 7-party alliance is trying to do a balancing act between Washington and Moscow as is evident by the distribution of cabinet posts, the USSR is yet to drop the demand for a place in the new set up for its Marxist installed regime, it noted.

Moreover "it is not yet clear whether the various mujahidin commanders inside Afghanistan who have led a determined struggle against the Soviet Union would allow the conservative Peshawar faction to form the future government," it added.

"Unfortunately the approach is quite amateurish," said KEYHAN and believed that even if mujahidin commanders inside Afghanistan approved the interim government "there still remains two major weak points on the part of the 7- party alliance:"

1-Their breaching of an accord with the Iran-based coalition and their refusal to share power with it in the proposed minister list.

2-The provisional government's failure to include all mujahidin groups which carries the threat of fresh foreign interference.

The daily advised them that it was not too late to reconsider their hasty decision which can still be turned into logic and reason.

TEHRAN TIMES on Arab Cooperation Council

NC2802110489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Arab Cooperation Council—From Theory to Reality"]

[Text] Heads of state of Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen convened in Baghdad last Wednesday to shape up, along with Iraq, a new union. The union was named the Arab Cooperation Council. Apparently the incentive for the formation of the union has been said to hinge on economy. Yet a close look into the economic and geographic constitutions of the participating countries proves the said incentive untenable.

The countries comprising the union differ in terms of geographical situation, rate of population and, above all, their per capita income. Yet what all these countries appear to have in common is their heavy foreign debt. However, the primary incentive for the shaping of the union appears to be purely political in nature. Political objectives to be followed by the council in the region can be analyzed in the light of the following issues.

The first incentive for the formation of the council might emanate from the participating countries' attempt to bolster Iraq's position in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations. It is to be noted that the member countries have unreservedly supported Iraq, both militarily and economically in its 8-year war against Iran. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the person of Saddam Husayn embarks on hosting the meeting.

The next consideration may be the fact that the council is formed to pose a challenge to the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council. The need for the necessity of such a council had been long felt within the Arab League. The (P)GCC sprang up in the early 80s and did influence most of the decisions made by the Arab League.

The most influential member of the (P)GCC, however, is Saudi Arabia. This, naturally, could not be tolerated by Egypt and Iraq.

However, the presence of North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in this union speaks of two possibilities: North Yemen is trying to free itself from the influence of Saudi Arabia, or Saudi Arabia has given North Yemen its nod to join the council to safeguard Saudi interests within the body. At any rate, an intensification of competition is anticipated to mount between this council and (P)GCC in the near future in the Arab world.

Another line of interest served by this council appears to be attempts at isolating Syria in the region. This is a possibility since the two pillars of the council, Iraq and Egypt, are Syria's number one enemies in the Arab world. Furthermore, Egypt's President Husni Mubarak is adamantly bent on dragging all other Arab countries in the Camp David Accords.

Therefore, this council can best serve Mubarak's objectives. The leaders in Cairo are also aware of the fact that they cannot all by themselves force the Arab League to accept the Camp David Accords. What casts doubt on the durability of this council, aside from its political, economic incompatibilities, is the historical record of such councils. The Arab League which sprang up some 30 years ago has witnessed the shaping of various councils which have proven too short-lived except for the (P)GCC. The Arab Cooperation Council is also anticipated to prove transitory and fall into oblivion in the not-too-distant future.

Musavi-Ardabili Letter on Khomeyni Message

LD2802230489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpts] We begin this hour's news reports with a broadcast of the text of a letter from Mr Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, to His Eminence Imam Khomeyni concerning the latest message of the imam of the ummah.

In the name of the exalted God. The inspiring message of that alert leader of the caravan of love, revolution, and martyrdom—the imam of the ummah—which was addressed to the honored clergymen and seminary students and their eminence, the maraje' [senior clergy, sources of emulation] and grand ayatollahs, injected new blood in the veins of the pride-endowing Islamic front. This message, which separates justice from injustice and points to the thorns of ignorance and madness, discord and passivity, and profanity and schism—which ignorant friends and informed enemies have pushed down the throat of our innocent revolution—is a dam made up of thousands of pains and regrets, which this young-hearted, wise, and grand old man of the blood-sacrificing and experienced path of Muhammaddan Islam, has expressed. [passage omitted]

The judges and the Supreme Judicial Council regard the issuance of the imam's problem-solving message in these sensitive historic days as having the status of a final verdict [etmam-e hojjat] for all revolutionaries, responsible officials, and all faithful brothers. They believe that the best way to appreciate the message is to apply its contents sincerely and precisely. This belief has already inspired all the responsible authorities of the country with a sense of devotion and motivation. The Supreme Judicial Council offers its thanks to the imam of the ummah, may his shadow extend, for giving the judicial powers his blessings and also for stressing the need for individuals to serve this power.

The imam of the ummah has remarked that the final point to which attention must paid is that the clerics, seminary students, and the 'ulema must regard judicial positions as a sacred and divine mission. In so doing, they must regard themselves as lofty personalities; this is so because, they have forsaken the comfort of teaching in the seminaries in order to hold positions in the Islamic government to enforce God's verdict. [passage omitted]

I take the opportunity to declare that the judicial power needs the presence of the 'ulema and the clerics in judicial positions. They are needed particularly in the higher echelons of the judiciary.

The mojtaheds [qualified senior clerics] and 'ulema who have chosen to serve the people in the sacred trench of the Islamic government—that is, in the judiciary—over the comfort of scientific research, and who place their record of virtue, political struggle, and experiences,at the disposal of the justice-seeking people and the deprived, will be regarded as those scholarly people whose learning has been enhanced by action. God willing, they are the ones who will be close to Almighty God.

[Signed] 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili

[Dated] 7/12/67 [26 February 89]

Khomeyni Orders Probe of Textbooks' 'Distortions'

LD2802162689 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni today called on President 'Ali Khamene'i to investigate distortion of historical facts in textbooks.

It is surprising that the educational system of Islamic Iran attributes something to the late (Ayatollah) Behbahani, which not even the heretics dared to allege, regretted the imam in his letter to President Khamene'i who also heads the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution.

Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdollah Behbahani (martyred 1909) and Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Tabataba'i (expired 1920) were two key religious leaders of 'Mashruteh' (the constitutional movement) which led to a new government in Iran in 1905.

The remarks were in reply to a letter by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamid Rohani which Imam Khomeyni termed as "a warning" for all who are concerned about Islam and revolution.

On January 18 Imam Khomeyni appointed Hoj. Rohani head of the documents center of the Islamic revolution to compile the history of the revolution and record events as they were.

Montazeri Speaks to Majlis Members 23 Feb

LD2402143789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] According to the report of the Central News Unit, 100 Majlis deputies met and conferred with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday [23 February].

In this meeting, he referred to the words of the holy Imam 'Ali who stated in the Nahj al-Balaghah: The status and value of a person is proportionate to the degree of the tasks that are carried out well by him. The acting leader said: You who have accepted the responsibility of representing the people doubtless considered yourselves to be capable of carrying out such a responsibility; and now that you have accepted such a great responsibility, you should know that your duty is heavy. The Majlis is the axis of the country's policies and all the works have to pass through the Majlis to be carried out. The judiciary and executive powers also have to be coordinated with the Majlis according to law. Thus, the brothers should make plans about the task that they have accepted, with a sense of responsibility, thought, and study and benefit from the expertise of advisers and specialists in these affairs. They should refrain from paying attention to factional and group considerations when carrying out their tasks in the interests of the state and the revolution.

The acting leader emphasized: In connection with differences which, after consultation, have not been resolved, the issue should be raised with his eminence, the imam. If his eminence gives an opinion, then that opinion should be decisively acted upon. If at any point his eminence were to say that he had no particular opinion, then the gentlemen should make a firm decision and request from the judicial and executive powers that the laws of the Majlis be carried out, precisely and fully.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, in connection with issues concerning reconstruction and implementation of the resolution [598] and such things, noted: The Majlis should be thinking about this important matter and consider the interests of the country and the revolution. It should formulate plans and programs with care. The confidence of the people and active and revolutionary forces of the country should be attracted to reconstructing the country so that use may be made of their presence and ideas on reconstruction.

The deputy leader emphasized: The Majlis should think about financial savings and economizing and getting rid of superfluous expenditures and merging organs that are performing similar and repetitive tasks, as soon as possible. In general, all organs and institutions should, under the conditions which the enemies have created for us, be thinking about new economizing plans and eliminating formalities in offices and organs, so that we may not be in need of others and may be able to stand on our own feet. He also reminded: If brothers see that the publication of some issues may be taken advantage of by internal and external enemies, they should convene a closed meeting. But, in any case, issues should be raised in an articulate and well thought-out fashion and they should be discussed adequately and then the Majlis should make a firm decision. You should try to maintain a united voice; in talking about issues, you should think of God, and you should not, God forbid, sacrifice the interests of religion, revolution, and the country to factional issues and personal and group biases.

Repair Work Continues on Abadan Oil Refinery

LD2702211689 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Boiler No. 24 of the Abadan refinery has been put into operation after the completion of repair work.

The work is within the framework of a time-table aiming at reopening the war-damaged refinery on April 1, with an initial capacity of 130,000 barrels a day.

Abadan refinery sustained a considerable damage during the Iraqi imposed war. It is currently undergoing repair by some 6,000 specialists and workers.

Leader of 'Major Drug Ring' Wounded, Arrested

LD2802161789 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Feb. 28, IRNA—Leader of a major drug ring who smuggled heroin into Iran has been arrested after being wounded in an armed clash with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards in the provincial city of Zabol, said an official of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees (IRC) here Monday.

The official said that more than 100 kgs of heroin was seized from the ring leader Safar Barahu'i. He added that Barahui was arrested earlier and put into jail for drug smuggling but had broken [out of] jail.

According to the IRC official, Barahu'i was also involved in terrorizing people of the province and once 1,100 kg of TNT explosives were seized from his agents.

The committee members have seized 75 kg of narcotics from 10 drug smugglers in provincial cities during the past few days. Another smuggler has been arrested with 500 kgs of drug hidden in a tanker.

He said in the past two weeks some 715 addicts have been arrested.

Pakistan

Government Bans Rushdie From Entering Country

BK2802153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The government has banned Salman Rushdie, a British citizen of Indian origin and author of "The Satanic Verses," from entering into Pakistan with immediate effect.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

BK0103025289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Tunisian prime minister, Hedi Baccouche, who arrived in Karachi last night on a 3-day visit to Pakistan, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today. He will also visit the tomb of the great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah. During his stay, he is expected to meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Hedi Baccouche will leave Karachi for Lahore this evening.

Talks With Bhutto

BK0103115089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Formal talks between the Tunisian prime minister, Mr Hedi Baccouche, and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto were held in Karachi today. Important regional and international issues, as well as bilateral matters, came up for discussion. The talks, which were [words indistinct]. The two leaders discussed at length matters of mutual concern and noted that there was a need to promote bilateral economic and commercial relations. It was agreed that the joint ministerial commission on economic cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries should be activated and its meeting be held this year.

The Tunisian prime minister conveyed the best wishes of the government and people of his country to the democratically-elected government of Pakistan and said that the Muslim world had great expectations from the government of Ms Benazir Bhutto. The Pakistani prime minister thanked Mr Hedi Baccouche for the kind sentiments and assured him that Pakistan would like to strengthen its relations with the Muslim world. Later, the Tunisian prime minister attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by Ms Benazir Bhutto.

President Regrets Shooting of PPP Member

BK2502043589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the death of Mohammad Ashraf Wala, who was shot dead in Multan on Thursday [23 February]. Expressing regrets over this incident, he said violence in politics should be eschewed at all costs. The president directed the Punjab government to take all necessary steps to apprehend the assailant and ensure law and order in the area.

A spokesman of the Pakistan People's Party has expressed regrets over the armed attack by the workers of Islamic Jamhuri Ittehad [IJI] on a peaceful procession of PPP workers in Jahania on Thursday, in which a close friend of a candidate who won the by-elections was killed. The spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the provincial government has failed to protect the life and property of the citizens. He recalled that the provincial government used all tactics to win the Jahania by-election. Police exerted pressure and harassed the people, coercing them to vote for the IJI candidate, but when the voters did not do so police took revenge against them.

The spokesman said the PPP believes in democracy because it has tirelessly struggled for the restoration of democracy. He said the head of the Punjab provincial government is a product of martial law and is incapable of accepting the verdict of democracy. He is not doing any service to the province and the country by adopting the path of terrorism. The spokesman expressed the determination that the PPP workers will march along the path of democracy. Toleration, restraint, and supremacy of democratic traditions are the salient features of stability in democracy. The spokesman appealed to the PPP workers in particular, and the people in general, to maintain calm and to foil the designs of elements wanting to weaken democracy through terrorism.

Bhutto Adviser Speaks on Constitution Amendment

BK2602041889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister's adviser in political affairs (Malik Mohammad Qasim) said the problems confronting the country are the outcome of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. Speaking to newsmen in Karachi, he said this is the reason why the present government is taking continuous efforts to abrogate this amendment. He said the government believes that it will get solid support in this matter from all the political leaders with political acumen.

Minister Addresses Deficit Financing, Inflation

BK2802100189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The present government has been able to arrest deficit financing and is no longer borrowing from the banking system. The rate of monetary expansion has been brought down compared to last year which would soon be reflected in lower rate of inflation. This was stated by the minister of state for finance, Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha while inaugurating a seminar on price statistics and price (?indexes) in Islamabad this morning. He referred to strong control on government spending after coming into power and said they were able to bring down the inflation rate. He said the supply of essential commodities has improved and their distribution system is being streamlined.

Proof of 'Economic Malpractices' Uncovered

BK2202032289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The organizations examining economic malpractices during the last few years have received concrete

proof testifying to large-scale and illegal use of political privilege. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting reliable sources, has reported that in one case the national exchequer had to incur a loss of 104 million rupees caused by the introduction of a new tax formula during the 2 years of 1984 and 1986. The formula was made in the interests of some influential persons in the steel industry in Punjab.

During 1984-85 and 1985-86, the tax rate on the item used to be levied in accordance with its valuation, generally 500 rupees per ton. However, while preparing the 1986-87 budget, the government suspended the formula and introduced a uniform tax rate, which was fixed at 418 rupees per ton. Some major steel industry figures in Punjab who had an influence on the politics of Punjab benefited from the move.